

AMA Manual of Style

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Pulmonary, Respiratory, and Blood Gas Terminology

AMA Manual of Style Committee

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Standardization of symbols in respiratory physiology dates from at least 1950. Despite the familiarity of abbreviations in pulmonary and respiratory medicine, authors and editors are encouraged to expand all terms at first mention, except as noted. Symbols and abbreviations are both used. Symbols consist of separate elements in various combinations whose letters may differ from the initial letters of the expansion, eg, Q# (perfusion). Abbreviations are usually initialisms. | Symbols and their subgrouping into main symbols and modifiers are consistent with approved nomenclature formulated circa 1980 by the Commission of Respiratory Physiology (International Union of Physiological Sciences) and the Publications

Eponymous vs Noneponymous Terms

Richard M. Glass

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Use of eponyms in the biomedical literature should be considered with regard to their usefulness in transmitting medical information. Although some eponyms are evanescent, many are permanently integrated into the body of medical knowledge. Eponyms have a degree of historical and cultural value and sometimes become well known. In the converse of historical value, it has been argued that certain eponyms should not be used because the named individual was involved in war crimes. In any case, many eponyms can be replaced with a noneponymous term consisting of a descriptive word or phrase that applies to the same disease, condition,

Nonpossessive Form

Richard M. Glass

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There is some continuing debate over the use of the possessive form for eponyms, but a transition toward the nonpossessive form has taken place. A major step toward preference for the nonpossessive form occurred when the National Down Syndrome Society advocated the use of Down syndrome, rather than Down's syndrome, arguing that the syndrome does not actually belong to anyone. The previous (ninth) edition of this manual, the seventh edition of the Council of Science Editors style manual, the Dictionary of Medical Eponyms, and the 27th edition of Stedman's Medical Dictionary recommend and use the nonpossessive form for eponymous terms.

Bylines and End-of-Text Signatures

Cheryl Iverson

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In major articles, authors are listed in a byline, which appears immediately below the title or subtitle. In letters, editorials, book reviews, essays, poems, and news stories, the authors' names may appear as signatures at the end of the text, rather than as a byline under the title. The authors' names and academic degrees are used, as in the byline. Further information given in the signature varies with the journal. The author should consult a recent issue for style and format. | The byline or signature block should contain each author's full name (unless initials are preferred to full names),

Greek Letter vs Word

Brenda Gregoline

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The editors of JAMA and the Archives Journals prefer the use of Greek letters rather than spelled-out words, unless usage dictates otherwise. Consult Dorland's and Stedman's medical dictionaries for general terms. These sources may differ in the representation of terms, ie, #-fetoprotein (symbol) (Stedman's) and alpha fetoprotein (Dorland's). If the Greek letter, rather than the word, is found in either of these sources for the item in question, use the letter in preference to the word. # For chemical terms, the use of Greek letters is almost always preferred. #-pinene # For electroencephalographic terms, use the word (see , Nomenclature, Neurology,

Capitalization After a Greek Letter

Brenda Gregoline

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In titles, subtitles (except in references), headings, table column heads, line art, and at the beginning of sentences, the first non-Greek letter after a lowercase Greek letter should be capitalized. #-Blocker use during pregnancy increases the risk that an infant will be small for gestational age. Do not capitalize the Greek letter itself, unless the word itself normally includes a Greek capital letter. In this case, the first non-Greek letter after the capital letter should be lowercased. #-Hemolytic streptococci were identified. #1-3,4-trans-tetrahydrocannabinol is 1 of 2 psychoactive isometric principles in cannabis. For hyphenation in words that contain Greek letters, consult Special Combinations

Greek Alphabet

Brenda Gregoline

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Capital and lowercase Greek letters are listed below. |

Page Composition and Electronic Formats

Brenda Gregoline

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If Greek letters need to be marked or modified on page proofs, this can be done by writing the letters “Gk” in the margin, followed by a description of the character (eg, “Gk lowercase mu”). Greek letters can pose problems for some Internet browsers. The best solution for editors is to make sure their text outputs Greek letters in a universal, platform-independent, nonproprietary standard for character encoding, such as Unicode. Most word processing and typesetting programs can generate Greek letters that already are Unicode encoded. Greek letters in running text should never be saved as graphics; these files are much

SI Units

Phil B. Fontanarosa and Stacy Christiansen

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The International System of Units (Le Système International d'Unités or SI) represents a modified version of the metric system that has been established by international agreement and currently is the official measurement system of most nations of the world. The SI promotes uniformity of quantities and units, minimizes the number of units and multiples used in other measurement systems, and can express virtually any measurement in science, medicine, industry, and commerce. In 1977, the World Health Organization recommended

the adoption of the SI by the international scientific community. Since then, many biomedical publications throughout the world have adopted SI units

Expressing Unit Names and Symbols

Phil B. Fontanarosa and Stacy Christiansen

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The SI includes conventions for expressing unit names and abbreviations (often referred to as symbols) and for displaying them in text. | The SI unit names are written lowercase (eg, kilogram) when spelled out, except for Celsius (as in “degrees Celsius”), which is capitalized. Abbreviations or symbols for SI units also are written lowercase, with the following exceptions: # Abbreviations derived from a proper name should be capitalized (eg, N for newton, K for kelvin, A for ampere), although nonabbreviated SI unit names derived from a proper name are not capitalized (eg, newtons, amperes). # An uppercase letter L is