

AMA Manual of Style

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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.

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. |

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

Footnotes to Title Page

Cheryl Iverson

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Footnotes should be avoided within the text. Such explanatory material can usually be incorporated into the text parenthetically. The footnotes discussed below are those that may appear at the bottom of the first page of major articles. | The preferred order of the footnotes at the bottom of the first page of an article in JAMA and the Archives Journals is as follows (see also , Typography). Note: Not all articles will include all of these. # Author affiliations # Death of an author (death dagger [†]) (see , Footnotes to Title Page, Death) # Information about members of a

Format, Style, and Punctuation

Phil B. Fontanarosa and Stacy Christiansen

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The format, style, and punctuation guidelines generally apply for SI reporting but also are used for reporting most values in conventional units. | SI reporting style uses exponents rather than certain abbreviations, such as cu and sq. | The same symbol is used for single and multiple quantities. Unit symbols are not expressed in the plural form. | Units of measure are treated as collective singular (not plural) nouns and require a singular verb. To control the patient's fever, 500 mg of acetaminophen was [not were] administered at the time of admission and 1000 mg was required 4 hours later. |

Conventional Units and SI Units in JAMA and the Archives Journals

Phil B. Fontanarosa and Stacy Christiansen

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In the United States, most physicians and other health care professionals use conventional units for most commonly encountered clinical measurements (eg, blood pressure), and most clinical laboratories report many laboratory values by means of conventional units. To serve these readers, but also to serve the needs of readers in countries where SI units are used, JAMA and the Archives Journals have adopted an approach for reporting units of measure that includes a combination of SI units and conventional units. | Measurements of length,

area, volume, and mass are reported by means of metric units rather than English units (Table).

Combining Numerals and Words

Stephen J. Lurie and Margaret A. Winker

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Use a combination of numerals and words to express rounded large numbers and consecutive numerical expressions. | Rounded large numbers, such as those starting with million, should be expressed with numerals and words. The disease affects 5 million to 6 million people. [Note that the word million is repeated to avoid ambiguity.] The word million signifies the quantity 10^6 , while billion signifies the quantity 10^9 . Although billion has traditionally signified 10^{12} (1 million million) in Britain, many British medical journals now use billion to indicate the quantity 10^9 . A number may be expressed in million rather than billion if the latter