

AMA Manual of Style

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Format, Style, and Punctuation

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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. |

Exponents

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SI reporting style uses exponents rather than certain abbreviations, such as cu and sq. |

Plurals

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The same symbol is used for single and multiple quantities. Unit symbols are not expressed in the plural form. |

Subject-Verb Agreement

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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. |

Beginning of Sentence, Title, Subtitle

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A unit of measure that follows a number at the beginning of a sentence, title, or subtitle should not be abbreviated, even though the same unit of measure is abbreviated if it appears elsewhere in the same sentence. (See , Numbers and Percentages, Spelling Out Numbers, Beginning a Sentence, Title, Subtitle, or Heading; and , Numbers and Percentages, Spelling Out Numbers, Common Fractions.) |

Abbreviations

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Most units of measure are abbreviated when used with numerals or in a virgule construction. Certain units of measure should be spelled out at first mention, with the abbreviated form in parentheses. Thereafter, the abbreviated form should be used in text. (See , Abbreviations, Units of Measure.) |

Punctuation

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Symbols or abbreviations of units of measure are not followed by a period, unless the symbol occurs at the end of a sentence. The patient's weight was 80 kg [not 80 kg.] and had increased by 10%. |

Hyphens

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A hyphen is used to join 2 spelled-out units of measure. pascal-second A hyphen is used to join a unit of measure and the number associated with it when the combination is used as an adjective. (See Temporary Compounds in , Punctuation, Hyphens and Dashes, Hyphen.) |

Spacing

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With the exception of the percent sign, the degree sign (for temperature and angles), and normal and molar solutions (see , Conventional Units and SI Units in JAMA and the Archives Journals, Solutions and Concentration), a full space should appear between the arabic numeral indicating the quantity and the unit of measure. 140 nmol/L (not 140nmol/L) 135-150 nmol/L 120 mm Hg 40% adherence rate 40%-50% 45° angle temperature of 37.5°C (not 37.5° C or 37.5 °C) |