



Units of Measure: Format, Style, and Punctuation Quiz by Laura King, MA, ELS

Directions: Edit the following sentences based on your understanding of section 18.3 (and associated references) of the [AMA Manual of Style](#).

1. We defined stage 3 or higher chronic kidney disease as an estimated glomerular filtration rate of less than 60 mL/min/1.73 sq m.

ANSWER:

We defined stage 3 or higher chronic kidney disease as an estimated glomerular filtration rate of less than 60 mL/min/1.73 m².

Editor's Note: Exponents rather than abbreviations are preferred for cubic (3) and square (2) (§[18.3.1](#), Exponents, p 791 in print).

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2. Ten mg of adipose tissue was aspirated from the right nasolabial fold, and 5 g of gluteal fat was then injected into each nasolabial fold using a uniform monolayer threading technique.

ANSWER:

Ten milligrams of adipose tissue was aspirated from the right nasolabial fold, and 5 g of gluteal fat was then injected into each nasolabial fold using a uniform monolayer threading technique.

Editor's Note: 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 (§[18.3.3](#), Subject-Verb Agreement, p 791 in print).

3. The use of alcohol-based hand-rub solutions (in liters per 1000 hospital-days) increased steadily from 2 to 21 Ls after the campaign.

ANSWER:

The use of alcohol-based hand-rub solutions (in liters per 1000 hospital-days) increased steadily from 2 to 21 L after the campaign.

Editor's Note: The same symbol is used for single and multiple quantities. Unit symbols are not expressed in the plural form (§[18.3.2](#), Plurals, p 791 in print).

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4. The 40 patients homozygous for the 16-bp duplication were older than the 25 patients without the 16-bp duplication.

ANSWER:

The 40 patients homozygous for the 16–base pair (bp) duplication were older than the 25 patients without the 16-bp duplication.

Editor’s Note: Although most units of measure are abbreviated when used with numerals or in a virgule construction, certain units of measure (eg, base pair) should be spelled out at first mention, with the abbreviated form in parentheses. Thereafter, the abbreviated form should be used. Refer to the list in section 14.12 (Units of Measure, pp 519-525 in print) to determine which units of measure should be spelled out at first mention (§18.3.5, Abbreviations, p 792 in print). Also note that an en dash rather than a hyphen should be used in the expression 16–base pair. The en dash is longer than a hyphen and shows relational distinction in a hyphenated or compound modifier, 1 element of which consists of 2 words or a hyphenated word, or when the word being modified is a compound (§18.3.2, Dashes, pp 352-353 in print).

5. A total of 50 mg of etanercept were administered subcutaneously twice weekly for 12 weeks.

ANSWER:

A total of 50 mg of etanercept was administered subcutaneously twice weekly for 12 weeks.

Editor’s Note: Units of measure are treated as collective singular (not plural) nouns and require a singular verb (§18.3.3, Subject-Verb Agreement, p 791 in print).

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6. The aspirated cells were centrifuged at 200 × g for 10 minutes and washed once in phosphate-buffered saline.

ANSWER:

The aspirated cells were centrifuged at 200g for 10 minutes and washed once in phosphate-buffered saline.

Editor's Note: The correct abbreviation for gravity (acceleration due to) is *g*, which is italicized and closed up to the preceding number (§14.12, Units of Measure, pp 519-525 in print).

7. When pressure was increased to 30 cm of water, the staple line of the 2.5 mm cartridge had diffuse weeping of fluid but no focal, apical leak.

ANSWER:

When pressure was increased to 30 cm H₂O, the staple line of the 2.5-mm cartridge had diffuse weeping of fluid but no focal, apical leak.

Editor's Note: The correct abbreviation for centimeters of water is cm H₂O (§14.12, Units of Measure, pp 519-525 in print). A hyphen is used to join a unit of measure and the number associated with it when the combination is used as an adjective (§18.3.7, Hyphens, p 792 in print).

8. The patient's temperature ranged from 39.6 °C to 41.2° C.

ANSWER:

The patient's temperature ranged from 39.6°C to 41.2°C.

Editor's Note: For degree signs, no spaces should appear between the unit of measure, the degree symbol, and the Celsius (or Fahrenheit) designation and, because of this lack of space, the unit of measure °C should appear with both numbers (ie, 39.6°C to 41.2°C *not* 39.6 to 41.2°C) (§18.3.8, Spacing, p 792 in print).



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9. Left ventricular filling pressures remained normal; however, colloid osmotic pressure decreased to 15 torr, substantially lower than the normal pressure of 25 torr.

ANSWER:

Left ventricular filling pressures remained normal; however, colloid osmotic pressure decreased to 15 mm Hg, substantially lower than the normal pressure of 25 mm Hg.

Editor's Note: Torr is no longer an accepted unit of measure. All mentions of torr should be changed to millimeters of mercury (mm Hg) (§14.12, Units of Measure, pp 519-525 in print).

10. Cell kinetic studies showed that although SW 48 cells have a doubling time of 35 hours, those incubated with 100 nmol/L of phorbol 12-myristate 13-acetate have a doubling time of 90 hours.

ANSWER:

Cell kinetic studies showed that although SW 48 cells have a doubling time of 35 hours, those incubated with 100-nmol/L phorbol 12-myristate 13-acetate have a doubling time of 90 hours.

Editor's Note: In concentrations, to avoid ambiguity, the number and unit of measure should be hyphenated and *of* should not be used (eg, 100-nmol/L phorbol 12-myristate 13-acetate, *not* 100 nmol/L *of* phorbol 12-myristate 13-acetate (§18.5.7, Solutions and Concentration, p 796).