

## Forward Slash (Virgule, Solidus) Quiz by Laura King, MA, ELS

Directions: Edit the following sentences for appropriate usage of the forward slash based on your understanding of section 8.4 of the *AMA Manual of Style*.

1. Gadofosveset trisodium was administered at a dose of 0.12 mL/kg of body weight.

**ANSWER:**

Gadofosveset trisodium was administered at a dose of 0.12 mL/kg.

**Editor's Note:** In the “per” construction, use a forward slash only when (1) the construction involves units of measure (including time) and (2) at least 1 element includes a specific numerical quantity and (3) the element immediately adjacent on each side is either a specific numerical quantity or a unit of measure (§8.4.2, *Used to Mean per*, p 354 in print). In this example, the original “0.12 mL/kg of body weight” is correct, but “of body weight” can be deleted because this is commonly understood.

2. The patient's pulse rate was 92 per minute.

**ANSWER:**

The patient's pulse rate was 92/min.

**Editor's Note:** In the “per” construction, use a forward slash only when (1) the construction involves units of measure (including time) and (2) at least 1 element includes a specific numerical quantity and (3) the element immediately adjacent on each side is either a specific numerical quantity or a unit of measure (§8.4.2, *Used to Mean per*, p 354 in print).

3. Conventional albumin concentrations are reported in g/dL.

**ANSWER:**

Conventional albumin concentrations are reported in grams per deciliter.

**Editor's Note:** Do not use the forward slash in a “per” construction when no specific numerical quantity is expressed (§8.4.2, *Used to Mean per*, p 354 in print). However, to conserve space in tables, these constructions may be used without specific numerals.

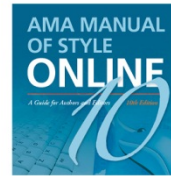
4. Physicians were required to be on call 3 d/wk.

**ANSWER:**

Physicians were required to be on call 3 days per week.

**Editor's Note:** Do not use the forward slash in a “per” construction in nontechnical expressions (§8.4.2, *Used to Mean per*, p 354 in print).





5. Study participants were administered 50 mEq/L of sodium bicarbonate.

**ANSWER:**

Study participants were administered a sodium bicarbonate concentration of 50 mEq/L.

**Editor's Note:** Avoid the "50 mEq/L of sodium bicarbonate" construction because it can be misconstrued as liters of sodium bicarbonate (§8.4.2, *Used to Mean per*, p 354 in print).

6. Survey data were collected from 1/1/12 to 1/1/13.

**ANSWER:**

Survey data were collected from January 1, 2012, to January 1, 2013.

**Editor's Note:** Use the forward slash in dates (month/day/year) only in tables and figures to save space. Avoid this presentation of dates in the text (§8.4.3, *In Dates*, p 354 in print; see also §4.1.5, *Visual Presentation of Data, Tables, Punctuation*, pp 95-96).

7. The male/female ratio was 2/1.

**ANSWER:**

The male to female ratio was 2:1.

**Editor's Note:** Although a forward slash may be used to express a ratio (eg, the male/female ratio was 2/1), the preferred style is to use a colon to express ratios that involve numbers or abbreviations (the Apo B:Apo A-I ratio was 2:1) and the word *to* to express ratios that involve words (the male to female ratio) (§8.4.5, *In Ratios*, p 354 in print; see also §8.2.3, *Colon, Numbers*, p 343).

8. The mean (SD) LDL-C:HDL-C ratio was 3.96 (1.35).

**ANSWER:**

The mean (SD) LDL-C:HDL-C ratio was 3.96 (1.35).

**Editor's Note:** Colons should be used to express ratios that involve abbreviations (the Apo B:Apo A-I ratio was 2:1) (§8.4.5, *In Ratios*, p 354 in print; see also §8.2.3, *Colon, Numbers*, p 343).

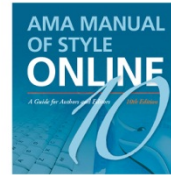
9. The study examined academic performance in undergraduate obstetrics/gynecology clinical rotations.

**ANSWER:**

The study examined academic performance in undergraduate obstetrics/gynecology clinical rotations.

**Editor's Note:** When 2 terms are of equal weight in an expression and *and* is implied between them to express this equivalence, the forward slash can be retained (§8.4.1, *Used to Express Equivalence or Duality*, pp 353-354 in print).





10. An intern can perform the aspiration technique even if he/she has had no prior training in the procedure.

**ANSWER:**

An intern can perform the aspiration technique even if he/she has had no prior training in the procedure.

**Editor's Note:** *When the question of duality arises in the he/she construction, change the slash construction when the sex is to be specified; substitute the word or for the forward slash or, preferably, rephrase to be sex neutral. If the sex is unspecified and does not matter, then the slash construction may be retained. In this example, the sex of the intern does not matter (§8.4.1, Used to Express Equivalence or Duality, pp 353-354 in print).*

11. When Mr and Ms Smith arrived at the office, the receptionist asked whether he/she had made the appointment.

**ANSWER:**

When Mr and Ms Smith arrived at the office, the receptionist asked whether he or she had made the appointment.

**Editor's Note:** *When the question of duality arises in the he/she construction, change the slash construction when the sex is to be specified; substitute the word or for the forward slash or, preferably, rephrase to be sex neutral. In this example, he refers to Mr Smith and she to Ms Smith, so the sex-specific pronouns are appropriate (§8.4.1, Used to Express Equivalence or Duality, pp 353-354 in print).*

12. The children in the study were prescribed an initial dose of carbamazepine of 10 to 20 milligrams per kilogram per day.

**ANSWER:**

The children in the study were prescribed an initial dose of carbamazepine of 10 to 20 mg/kg/d.

**Editor's Note:** *In the "per" construction, use a forward slash only when (1) the construction involves units of measure (including time) and (2) at least 1 element includes a specific numerical quantity and (3) the element immediately adjacent on each side is either a specific numerical quantity or a unit of measure (§8.4.2, Used to Mean per, p 354 in print). Complex rates involve division of a rate by another unit. Complex rates that are used frequently are conventionally indicated by 2 slashes in the same expression, for example, 20 mg/kg/d (§21.6, Expressing Multiplication and Division, pp 910-911).*

