Standards for authors


Uniform requirements for manuscripts submitted to biomedical journals (Vancouver Standards)

Acta Pediátrica de México is the official organ of the National Institute of Pediatrics, a bimonthly publication whose fundamental purpose is the divulgence of scientific evidence and information generated as a result of original basic, clinical, epidemiologic, and social research in the field of pediatrics, which helps to develop and improve models of healthcare during childhood and adolescence.

Its specific objectives are to stimulate reflection and continued education of pediatricians in relation to the changes constantly occurring in health promotion, prevention, timely diagnosis, and comprehensive treatment of diseases that affect children and may have repercussions in their adult life. Acta Pediátrica de México also seeks to provide an instrument for researchers to present their results and serve as a link between basic and clinical researchers.

The journal published the following types of manuscripts: Editorials, Original articles, Clinical cases of special interest, Clinical cases from the anatomo-pathological session of the National Institute of Pediatrics, Review Articles, Pediatric criteria, and Letters to the editor.

The texts published in the different sections are submitted to the consideration of an editorial board, made up by recognized physicians and researchers from Mexico and the rest of the world, which evaluates the pertinence, quality, originality, and relevance of each article. All manuscripts submitted for consideration to be published in Acta Pediátrica de México are subjected to a process of peer review.

Acta Pediátrica de México is indexed in Lilacs, CENIDAS, Artemisa, Latindex, and EBSCO (MediCLatin). It is distributed both locally and internationally among professionals and researchers in different fields of pediatrics.

Criteria for evaluation and selection of articles

Acta Pediátrica de México is published in print and on line (www.actapediatricademexico.org) in Spanish and English, or in English only, when it is the original language of publication. Translation from Spanish into English by a professional team of translators of medical publications associated with the journal will be covered by Acta Pediátrica de México, but if the authors require, they may proofread the text in English at their expense.

The screening criteria used in Acta Pediátrica de México are the scientific solidity of the work and the originality, as well as the contemporary relevance and timeliness of the information. Preference is given to original articles with results of research on clinical case reports of special interest and review articles. The latter are received preferably by direct invitation from the journal, although articles that examine important topics for pediatrics and have exceptional quality will be evaluated by the Editorial Board.

Papers that the Editorial Board considers pertinent are subjected to a process of peer review. The complete process includes:

a) All texts should be sent to editor@actapediatricademexico.org

b) After receiving the material, it will undergo an initial review by the Editorial Board, which will determine the importance and relevance of the article; if the manuscript conforms to the editorial line and if it adheres to the standards and general criteria for publication of Acta Pediátrica de México.

c) The process of review and arbitration for all articles submitted for publication in Acta Pediátrica de México is by peers — being entrusted to at least two specialists — and forms the basis for the Editorial Board to issue a ruling, which may for acceptance, rejection, or conditional, subject to the authors making the changes suggested by the reviewers. Any decision is communicated in writing solely to the corresponding author, in a term of 6 to 8 weeks from the date of receipt of the original. If the paper is granted conditional approval, the new version must be sent in the term indicated, which in no case may exceed 30 calendar days. When that term expires the author, if he or she wishes, must resubmit the article.

d) When the authors have made the changes suggested, they will be reviewed by the specialists assigned, and the response on final approval will be issued within no more than 2 weeks.

e) When the Editorial and the reviewers have approved the article, it will be scheduled for publication.

Specifications for sections

Editorial. The texts published will be by express invitation of the Editorial Board of Acta Pediátrica de México and should not exceed 800 words in length. Editorial articles submitted spontaneously will be received. However, acceptance will be subject to the criteria of the journal’s Editor in Chief.

Original articles. In this section results of basic, clinical, and epidemiologic research projects in the field of pediatrics are published, whose contents have not been published in other media (print or electronic). Ideally, articles should not exceed 4000 words and should have no more than 5 illustrations, tables, or graphs.

When, for reasons of importance, the length of an article or the number of illustrations exceeds the recommendations of Acta Pediátrica de México, the author must send a letter justifying it.

Clinical cases of special interest. In this section cases are published which, due to their contemporary interest, topic, diagnosis, treatment, and resolution, present a relevant, unexplored, or original line in the field of pediatrics. Articles should not exceed 2000 words or have more than 3 illustrations, tables, or graphs.

Review articles. Preferably, articles published in this section will be solicited by the Editorial Board based on an annual calendar — published in the first bimester of the year.

Any article of this type that is submitted to the Editorial Board will be evaluated, but only those which, due to their editorial quality and importance in the field of pediatrics, are considered of exceptional value will be published.

Cases from the anatomo-clinical session. In this section articles on cases presented in the anatomo-clinical session of the National Institute of Pediatrics will be published, subject to evaluation and selection by the Editorial Board, jointly with session coordinator and the pathologist responsible.

Letters to the editor. Only letters of no more than 500 words that contain constructive comments and seek to encourage dialog on the articles published in the two previous issues will be published.

Pediatric criteria. In this section only those manuscripts solicited by the Acta Pediátrica de México Editorial Board in accordance with annual planning, which will be made known in the first issue of each year, will be published.

Courses and Congresses. Only those medical courses, meetings, or congresses of a strictly academic nature, sent to the Editorial Board at least four months before their scheduled date, will be announced.
News. News that the Editorial Board considers relevant to the community that reads and writes in Acta Pediátrica de México will be published.

General features of text

All manuscripts must be double-spaced in 12 point Arial font with 2 cm upper and lower margins; and 3 cm left and right margins. The text must be sent in an electronic file in.doc or .txt format. If the article contains images, they must be mentioned in the text and inserted after the bibliographic references. Also, they must be attached in an electronic folder in.jpg or .tif format with at least 300dpi resolution.

The text must be structured as follows:

Cover Page

a. Title. The title should give a “summarized description” (preferably no more than 85 characters) of the full article and should include information which, with the abstract, allows for sensitive and specific electronic consultation of the article. Acta Pediátrica de México recommends that the design of the study be part of the title (especially in the case of clinical trials or meta-analyses). A short title (no more than 40 characters) should also be assigned.

b. Information on the author or authors. Write the full name of each author starting with surnames and indicating highest academic degree. Clearly specify the name(s) of the department(s) or service(s) and institution(s) where the article was developed. The cover page should include complete contact information for the corresponding author. Include contact information for all the authors, including email addresses and telephone numbers. Specify the contribution of each of the authors.

c. Exemption(s) of responsibility. Letter in which the author clearly states that the findings, opinions, or points of view contained in the article pertain to the authors and are not the result of an official position on the part of the institution where they are employed or the institution that funded the research.

d. Funding. This includes grants, equipment, drugs, and any other support that has been received to conduct the work described in the article or to write the article itself.

e. Number of words. Indicate the number of words in the article, not including the abstract, acknowledgements, captions to tables and figures, or bibliography.

f. Number of figures and tables. Indicate the number and title(s) of the figures and tables to be included in the text, regardless of whether they are sent in an attached file.

g. Statement on conflicts of interest. State if the authors are part of the advisory board of a pharmaceutical company or receive or have received any financial support from a commercial source to write the article being submitted for evaluation.

Abstract

A structured abstract is essential for clinical case reports of special interest, original articles, reviews, systematic reviews, and meta-analyses. It should reflect the context in which the research was conducted, objective, material and methods (method of screening participants for the study, location, measurements and analytic methods), principal results, and conclusions. Emphasize the most relevant or innovative aspects of the study and explain its limitations.

Separately (after the abstract), indicate sources of funding to facilitate presentation and indexing.

Because the abstract, especially the English language version, is the part of the article shown in electronic databases, and the only part that most readers will consult, it is important for the authors to ensure that it objectively and accurately reflects the contents of the article. The abstract should not exceed 200 words.

Key words. At the end of the abstract, the authors should include 3 to 10 key words in Spanish and English in order to facilitate indexing and finding the article in electronic databases.

Body of the article

Introduction. This section should include the purpose of the article, as well as its most relevant antecedents.

Material and methods. Include all procedures used in choosing the experimental material or population used and identify methods, equipment, and procedures to permit its reproduction. Clearly state statistical methods used so that the expert reader can decide if they were appropriate, as well as the software (including version) used for statistical analysis.

Results. Results should be presented following a logical sequence, both in the text and in tables and figures. Data contained in tables and figures should not be repeated in the text.

Discussion. This section should emphasize the study’s contributions comparing them with previously published work and presenting the conclusions. Authors are suggested to state the limitations of their work and lines of enquiry for future studies.

Acknowledgements. In accordance with the guidelines of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors.

Bibliographic citations. Citations must be consecutively numbered as they appear in the text. Citations should be identified with Arabic numbers in brackets in the text, tables, and figures. Sources that are cited only in tables or figures should be numbered following the established sequence of appearance in the article.


In the case of articles with more than 6 authors, cite only the first 6 authors, as indicated in the following example:


Legal Aspects and Copyright

All articles submitted for publication in Acta Pediátrica de México must be unpublished and original and not be entered for publication in any other journal, as long as they are under evaluation by the Acta Pediátrica de México Editorial Board. All articles will be published with the full knowledge of the authors.

When submitting an article for publication, the authors transfer to Acta Pediátrica de México all equity rights to the article in question, so that Acta Pediátrica de México may edit, publish, reproduce, distribute, market, and translate it or authorize translation into any language. The rights transferred include publication of the article by any means, whether printed, magnetic, or electronic, or in any other format or means of dissemination in existence or that may be created in the future, as well as publication as a result of granting total or partial license to third parties.

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