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**Title page**

The title page should:

* present a title that includes, if appropriate, the study design
* list the full names, institutional addresses and email addresses for all authors
  + if a collaboration group should be listed as an author, please list the Group name as an author. If you would like the names of the individual members of the Group to be searchable through their individual PubMed records, please include this information in the “Acknowledgements” section in accordance with the instructions below
* indicate the corresponding author

**Abstract**

The Abstract should not exceed 350 words. Please minimize the use of abbreviations and do not cite references in the abstract. The abstract must include the following separate sections:

* **Background:** the context and purpose of the study
* **Results:** the main findings
* **Conclusions:** a brief summary and potential implications

**Keywords**

Three to ten keywords representing the main content of the article.

**Background**

The Background section should explain the background to the study, its aims, a summary of the existing literature and why this study was necessary.

**Results**

This should include the findings of the study including, if appropriate, results of statistical analysis which must be included either in the text or as tables and figures.

**Discussion**

For research articles this section should discuss the implications of the findings in context of existing research and highlight limitations of the study. For study protocols and methodology manuscripts this section should include a discussion of any practical or operational issues involved in performing the study and any issues not covered in other sections.

**Conclusions**

This should state clearly the main conclusions and provide an explanation of the importance and relevance of the study to the field.

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The methods section should include:

* the aim, design and setting of the study
* the characteristics of participants or description of materials
* a clear description of all processes, interventions and comparisons. Generic names should generally be used. When proprietary brands are used in research, include the brand names in parentheses
* the type of statistical analysis used, including a power calculation if appropriate

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All manuscripts must contain the following sections under the heading 'Declarations':

* Ethics approval and consent to participate
* Consent for publication
* Availability of data and material
* Competing interests
* Funding
* Authors' contributions
* Acknowledgements
* Authors' information (optional)

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#### Acknowledgements

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OnlineFirst chapter in a series (without a volume designation but with a DOI)

Saito Y, Hyuga H. Rate equation approaches to amplification of enantiomeric excess and chiral symmetry breaking. Top Curr Chem. 2007. doi:10.1007/128\_2006\_108.

Complete book, authored

Blenkinsopp A, Paxton P. Symptoms in the pharmacy: a guide to the management of common illness. 3rd ed. Oxford: Blackwell Science; 1998.

Online document

Doe J. Title of subordinate document. In: The dictionary of substances and their effects. Royal Society of Chemistry. 1999. http://www.rsc.org/dose/title of subordinate document. Accessed 15 Jan 1999.

Online database

Healthwise Knowledgebase. US Pharmacopeia, Rockville. 1998. http://www.healthwise.org. Accessed 21 Sept 1998.

Supplementary material/private homepage

Doe J. Title of supplementary material. 2000. http://www.privatehomepage.com. Accessed 22 Feb 2000.

University site

Doe, J: Title of preprint. http://www.uni-heidelberg.de/mydata.html (1999). Accessed 25 Dec 1999.

FTP site

Doe, J: Trivial HTTP, RFC2169. ftp://ftp.isi.edu/in-notes/rfc2169.txt (1999). Accessed 12 Nov 1999.

Organization site

ISSN International Centre: The ISSN register. http://www.issn.org (2006). Accessed 20 Feb 2007.

Dataset with persistent identifier

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