

# AUTHOR GUIDELINES

Our complete Author Guidelines are available at [www.futuremedicine.com](http://www.futuremedicine.com)

## Audience

The audience for *Future Medicine* titles consists of clinicians, research scientists, decision-makers and a range of professionals in the healthcare community.

## Submission

We accept unsolicited manuscripts. If you are interested in submitting an article, or have any queries regarding article submission, please contact the Head of Commissioning directly ([l.dormer@futuremedicine.com](mailto:l.dormer@futuremedicine.com)). For new article proposals, the Editor will require a brief article outline and working title in the first instance. We also have an active commissioning program whereby the Editor, under the advice of the Editorial Advisory Panel, solicits articles directly for publication.

## Peer review & revision

Once the manuscript has been received in-house, it will be peer-reviewed (usually 2–3 weeks). Following peer review, 2 weeks is allowed for any revisions (suggested by the referees/Editor) to be made.

## In-house production

Following acceptance of the revised manuscript, it will undergo production in-house. Authors will receive proofs of the article to approve before going to print, and will be asked to sign a copyright transfer form (except in cases where this is not possible, i.e., government employees in some countries).

## Article types

For a more detailed description of each article type, please view our author guidelines at: [www.futuremedicine.com](http://www.futuremedicine.com)

## Reviews

Reviews aim to highlight recent significant advances in research, ongoing challenges and unmet needs.

### Word limit

4000–8000 words (excluding Abstract, Executive Summary, References and Figure/Table legends)

### Required sections

(for a more detailed description of these sections go to [www.futuremedicine.com](http://www.futuremedicine.com)):

- Summary
- Keywords
- Future perspective
- Executive summary
- References
- Reference annotations
- Financial disclosure

## Primary research articles

### Word limit:

Not applicable

### Required sections

(for a more detailed description of these sections go to [www.futuremedicine.com](http://www.futuremedicine.com)):

- Structured abstract (Aims, Materials & Methods, Results and Conclusions)
- Keywords
- Introduction
- Patients & methods/Materials & methods
- Results
- Discussion
- Conclusions
- Summary points
- References
- Reference annotations
- Financial disclosure

## Perspectives

### Word limit: 4000–8000

Perspectives should be speculative and very forward looking, even visionary. They offer the author the opportunity to present criticism or address controversy. Authors of perspectives are encouraged to be highly opinionated. The intention is very much that these articles should represent a personal perspective. Referees will be briefed to review these articles for quality and relevance of argument only. They will not necessarily be expected to agree with the authors' sentiments.

## Special reports

### Word limit: 1500–3000

Special reports are short review-style articles that summarize a particular niche area, be it a specific technique or therapeutic method.

## Editorials

### Word limit: 1000–1500

Editorials are short articles on issues of topical importance. We encourage our editorial writers to express their opinions, giving the author the opportunity to present criticism or address controversy. The intention is very much that the article should offer a personal perspective on a topic of recent interest.

## Priority paper evaluations

### Word limit: 1500

Priority paper evaluations review significant, recently published primary research articles carefully selected and assessed by specialists in the field (not a paper from the author's own group). The primary research detailed in the chosen paper is discussed with the aim of keeping readers informed of the most promising discoveries/breakthroughs relevant to the subject of the journal through review and comment from experts.

Priority Paper Evaluations are intended to extend and expand on the information presented, putting it in context and explaining why it is of importance.

The ideal article will provide both a critical evaluation and the author's opinion on the quality and novelty of the information disclosed.

## Conference scenes

### Word limit: 1500

Conference scenes aim to summarize the most important research presented at a recent conference in the subject area of the journal.

## Company profiles

### Word limit: 2000

Company profiles allow representatives from pharmaceutical, biotechnology, etc. companies to describe the work currently being carried out within their particular organization, relevant to the field of the journal in question.

These reports are intended to provide an insight into the history and strategy of a company and profile its corporate capabilities, advanced technologies and future potential.

## Manuscript preparation

### Spacing & headings

Please use double line spacing throughout the manuscript. No more than four levels of subheading should be used to divide the text and should be clearly designated.

### Abbreviations

Abbreviations should be defined on their first appearance, and in any table and figure footnotes. It is helpful if a separate list is provided of any abbreviations.

### Spelling

US-preferred spelling will be used in the final publication.

## Figures, tables & boxes

*Future Medicine* has a charge for the printing of color figures (i.e. each color page) in the print issue of the journal. We have no page charges and aim to keep our color charge to a minimum. The charge does not apply to the online version of articles, where all figures appear in color at no charge.

### Copyright

If a figure, table or box has been published previously (even if you were the author), acknowledge the original source and submit written permission from the copyright holder to reproduce the material where necessary.

As the author of your manuscript, you are responsible for obtaining permissions to use material owned by others. Since the permission-seeking process can be remarkably time-consuming, it is wise to begin writing for permission as soon as possible.

Please send us photocopies of letters or forms granting you permission for the use of copyrighted material so that we can see that any special requirements with regard to wording and placement of credits are fulfilled. Keep the originals for your files. If payment is required for use of the figure, this should be covered by the author.

## Key formatting points

Please ensure your paper concurs with the following article format:

**Title:** concise, not more than 120 characters.

**Author(s) names & affiliations:** including full name, address, phone & fax numbers and e-mail.

**Abstract/Summary:** approximately 120 words. No references should be cited in the abstract.

**Keywords:** approximately 5–10 keywords for the review.

**Body of the article:** article content under relevant headings and subheadings.

**Conclusion:** analysis of the data presented in the review.

**Future perspective:** a speculative viewpoint on how the field will evolve in 5–10 years time.

**Executive summary:** bulleted summary points that illustrate the main topics or conclusions made under each of the main headings of the article.

### References:

- Should be numerically listed in the reference section in the order that they occur in the text.
- Should appear as a number i.e., [1,2] in the text.
- If websites or patents are included, please use a separate numbering system for them, i.e., start numbering website references at [101] and patents at [201] to allow the reader to distinguish between websites/patents and primary literature references both in the text and in the bibliography.
- Any references that are cited in figures/tables/boxes that do not appear in the text should be listed at the end of the reference list in the order they occur.
- Quote first six authors' names. If there are more than six, then quote first three *et al.*
- The *Future Medicine* Endnote style can be downloaded from our website at: [www.futuremedicine.com/page/authors.jsp](http://www.futuremedicine.com/page/authors.jsp)

**Reference annotations:** please highlight 6–8 references that are of particular significance to the subject and provide a brief (1–2 line) synopsis. Papers should be highlighted as one of the following:

\* of interest

\*\* of considerable interest

**Figures/Tables/Boxes:** Summary figures/tables/boxes are very useful, and we encourage their use in reviews/perspectives/special reports. The author should include illustrations and tables to condense and illustrate the information they wish to convey. Commentary that augments an article and could be viewed as 'stand-alone' should be included in a separate box. An example would be a summary of a particular trial or trial series, a case study summary or a series of terms explained.

*If any of the figures or tables used in the manuscript requires permission from the original publisher, it is the author's responsibility to obtain this.* Figures must be in an editable format.