Style Checklist

This journal follows the Oxford Journals SciMed house style.

SPECIFIC STYLE POINTS

- Abstracts: Structured and up to 270 words.
- Titles/headings: Titles in sentence case. Headings numbered and in sentence case. Please supply a suitable short title for the running head.
- History dates: Places after abstract in this format - Submitted 19 November 2012; revised 22 January 2013; accepted 25 January 2013
- Personal titles/qualifications (MD, PhD etc.) should be omitted.
- Full address, telephone, fax and email address are required for the corresponding author.

REFERENCE STYLE

- References are given in a reference list according to Oxford Journals style:
- Books: Long HC, Blatt MA, Higgins MC *et al. Medical Decision Making*. Boston: Butterworth-Heinemann, 1997.
- Chapters: Manners T, Jones R, Riley M. Relationship of overweight to haitus hernia and reflux oesophagitis. In: Newman W (ed.). *The Obesity Conundrum*. Amsterdam: Elsevier Science, 1997, 352–74.
- Journal articles: Kennedy T, Jones R. Effect of obesity on esophageal transit. *Am J Surg* 1985;149:177–81.
- Online journal articles: Qiao D, Chen W, Stratagoules E and Martinez J. (10 March 2000) Bile acid-induced activation of activator protein-1 requires both extracellular signal-regulated kinase and protein kinase C signaling. *J Biol Chem*, 10.1074/jbc.M908890199.
- If there are four or more authors, then use the first three followed by *et al*.
- Page spans are elided.

IN TEXT CITATIONS

- In-text citations are given in the format: numbers in square brackets, e.g. [1, 3–5].
- The reference marker comes before punctuation.
- Citations are always given at the end of the sentence.

QUOTATIONS

- Quotations over 5 lines are pulled out of the text, started on a new line, and indented on the left.
- Single quotation marks are used.
- Use single quotes, and double quotes for quote within a quote.

ABBREVIATIONS

- Commonly used abbreviations do not need defining. All other abbreviations are defined at first mention in both the abstract and the text.
- Units of measure should be SI Units and abbreviated, e.g. kg, ml
- US/Canadian/Australian states should be abbreviated as two-letter names.

SPELLING

- Use UK spelling, which should be Oxford English, i.e. ize not ise (but use analyse). (See the Concise Oxford Dictionary or http://www.merriam-webster.com/).

PUNCTUATION

- Oxford/serial comma is allowed only to avoid ambiguity.
- Punctuation is given after closing quotes if the punctuation is not part of the sentence in quotes.
- Use e.g. and i.e. (not eg or ie) and there should not be a comma after e.g. or i.e.

NUMBERS AND DATES

- Numbers below 10 are spelled out; any numbers above 9 are written in digits. For values with units, always use numerals, e.g. 2 mg.
- Number spans within the text are not elided, e.g. 120–126 mg. Thousand separator is a space, e.g. 10 000, but do not use separator if less than 10 000 (i.e. 1000)**.**
- Dates are given in the format: 15 June 2009.