

SAMOA MEDICAL JOURNAL-Article Categories

Cat	Type of article	Limits	Description	Additional considerations
A	Editorial	1000 words, 12 references, No abstract	Commentary on topics of current interest or SMJ articles	Usually commissioned. Unsolicited editorials should be cleared with the Editor-in-Chief first.
B	Research	5000 words that includes a maximum 25 references and a 250 word abstract	Original clinical research (not animal or laboratory work)	Introduction, Materials & Methods, Results, Discussion, References.
C	Review	2500 words that includes a maximum 60 references and a 250 word abstract	Critical analysis of a topic of current clinical interest especially relevant to Samoa or the South Pacific	Longer review articles on specific topics of relevance to the Samoa and the South Pacific may be considered. Should be cleared with the Editor-in-Chief first.
D	Letter to Editor	1000 words		Usually commissioned. Unsolicited editorials should be cleared with the Editor-in-Chief first. Longer editorials at discretion of Editor-in-chief
E	Notable case	1500 words, 20 references, Abstract 100 words	Unique case not previously reported	Clinical or diagnostic, photos encouraged
F	Lessons from practice	1500 words, 20 references, Abstract 100 words	Case report which is not novel but has an important clinical message	Include box of about four points summarizing lesson (s)
G	Diagnostic dilemma	1000 words	Case report which is not novel but has important clinical message about difficult diagnostic pathway	Clinical or diagnostic, photos encouraged
H	Viewpoint Opinion Hypothesis Medico-legal	1500 words, 10 referemces, 100 word abstract	Any issues related to h ealthcare/ethics/law as applicable to medicine	

I	Position Statement	2500 words, 50 refs, DPA 250 words	Recommendations from learned bodies or interest groups	Describe consensus process and evidence base; include levels of evidence
J	For debate	1500 words, 25 refs, DPA 250 words	Discussion of controversial topic	May be single longer article discussing controversial issue, or two shorter articles by authors with opposing views (the latter is usually commissioned)
K	Clinical ethics	2000 words, 25 refs, DPA 250 words	Discussion of ethical issues related to patient care (ie, should have a clinical focus)	Case scenarios may be helpful to illustrate issues
L	Conference report	1500 words, no abstract	Overview of the highlights of a recent medical conference	Conferences with presentations relevant to a wide general audience preferred
M	History	1500 words, 25 refs, UA 250 words	Essay on topic of historical interest	Relevance to medicine in Samoa or the Pacific Islands preferred
N	From Bench to Bedside	1500 words, 25 refs, DPA 250 words	Potential clinical application of new research or technology	
O	Personal Perspective	1500 words, no abstract	Personal experiences in the practice of medicine-may be critical, instructive or humorous	
P	Snapshot	100 words	Interesting or amusing clinical photo	Brief caption or relevant case details required to explain context of photo
Q	Letter	400 words, 5 refs	Brief research reports, comments on topics of current clinical interest or correspondence about SMJ articles	Should have no more than 5 authors

R	Obituaries	350 words	Brief overview of a medical person's life and works	Please supply photo-does not need to be recent
S	Book Reviews	350 words	Reviews of newly published books or multimedia	Usually commissioned, unsolicited reviews must be discussed with the author first
T	New drugs, old drugs	2500 words, 25 refs, DPA 250 words	Evidence-based, state-of-the-art review of recent advances in pharmacotherapy for clinically relevant conditions	Usually commissioned; include levels of evidence, Box of important messages for patients, and Box summarising drug profile (eg action, dose and administration, adverse effects, interactions and contraindications)
U	Clinical Update	2500 words, 25 refs, DPA 250 words	Review of recent advances in diagnosis and/or management of a clinically relevant problem, with a practical focus	Clinical/diagnostic photos encouraged
V	Education and Training	Between 1500 and 4000 words that includes a maximum 25 references and a 250 word abstract	May include original educational research, provide an overview or insights into a topical area of medical education or describe and evaluate relevant education and training activities	For research or education practice papers: Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion, References. For overview/insight papers: Introduction, Description/context, key points, summary, references. For all papers: Box of up to 6 practice points.
W	Literature Updates for example the Hinari Column	Between 1500 and 3000 words on recent literature	In this column, recent research papers and reviews appearing in PubMed relevant to medical health in Samoa and the South Pacific will be stated and a box with specific article highlighted.	

X	Special Reports e.g. Samoa Tsunami	Between 3000 and 5000 words.	Significant events affecting Samoa e.g. H1NI or the Tsunami. Such articles may be solicited by the editorial Board.	
Y				
Z				
AA				
AB				
AC				
AD				

AE				

These guidelines have been adapted from the Medical Journal of Australia

Last Update: 16 Feb 2010