

## Author presubmission checklist for manuscripts for publication in supplements to BioMed Central journals

Before submitting the manuscript to your supplement organizer, please go through the list of points below, and refer back to the main instructions if necessary. You should be aware that failure to follow the instructions may cause interruptions to the review and production process which could result in delayed publication of the whole supplement. If it is necessary to make any changes in proof due to incorrect formatting of the original files, changes will be at the discretion of the Editors

When you have checked each of the points, please make the required changes to your files.

***Incorrectly formatted manuscripts cause problems and delays during the production process.***

### Title page of manuscript

1. Authors' affiliations should be in the following format: Department, Institute, City, Country
2. Each affiliation must be linked to an author.
3. All authors must be linked to their corresponding affiliation(s) using superscript numerals.
4. Authors should not list their qualifications on the title page.
5. One corresponding author should be indicated.
6. A contact email address must be listed for each author.
7. The title should be in bold, sentence case with no full stop at the end and no underlining.

### Manuscript sections

8. Abstracts should be no longer than 350 words.
9. Abstracts should not cite references, figures or tables, and the use of abbreviations should be minimized.
10. The abstract should include trial registration details, if appropriate.
11. All articles should include the following sections (in order): Abstract; Background; Main text with appropriate subheadings (see online instructions for authors for preparing your manuscript on journal website- for research articles headings should include Methods, Results, Discussion, Conclusions); List of abbreviations used (if any); Declarations; References; Figure legends (if any); Tables (if any); List of Additional data files (if any).
12. Please do not number the sections.
13. Please use sentence case for titles, headings and subheadings, with no unnecessary initial capital letters.
14. Figures must be supplied as separate files (see below).
15. Do not include footnotes or text boxes.
16. Avoid including long URLs in the main body of the text, put them in the reference section with the name of the website.
17. A declarations section must have the following: Competing interests; Ethics approval and consent to participate; Consent for publication; Availability of data and materials; Funding; Acknowledgements; Author contributions; Authors information (optional)
18. **Funding must state specifically where publication charges come from**
19. Please declare in 'Author contributions' if all authors have read and approved the final manuscript
20. Ensure that permission has been obtained to reproduce any previously published materials (e.g. text sections, reproduced figures/tables, etc") and make sure the original publications are correctly referenced

### References

20. References must be cited in the text using consecutive numbers in square brackets.
21. References to other articles from within the same Supplement as your article must be highlighted in red.
22. The reference list should be provided in the correct format (Vancouver style) so that the links to each referenced article's abstract on PubMed (and/or the full text on the publisher's website if applicable) can be created.

### Figures

23. **Each figure must be provided as a separate file, not embedded in the main manuscript file.**
24. If a figure consists of separate parts e.g. A and B, it is important that these parts are submitted in a single figure file and not as individual figure files.
25. The image file should not include the figure number, title or legend; these should be included in the manuscript file after the references. Sub-labelling (e.g. A, B, C) may be included in the figure file.
26. Figures must be closely cropped so that only a small white border appears around the image.
27. Figures should be of adequate resolution to ensure good reproduction online.
28. Please name figure files so it is easy to identify which manuscript they belong to and which figure number they are.
29. Indicate clearly if a figure is being reproduced or adapted with permission from another publication

### Tables

30. Tables smaller than one side of A4 (210mm x 297mm) can appear within the main article and should be included at the end of the manuscript file, in the order that they are referred to in the text.
31. Tables must be divided into cells/fields - tables generated with tabbed text are not acceptable.
32. Tables should not include colour or shading

### Additional files

33. These may consist of larger tables or other files, such as movies, PDF files, etc, that are not intended to appear within the body of the article.
34. If authors have included additional files, they must include a separate section in the manuscript that lists: file name(s), file format(s), title(s) of data and short description(s) of data.
35. Additional files **must** have the appropriate three-letter file extension for the programme you have used to generate them (e.g. .xls for Excel; .pdf for Acrobat files etc). Additional files must be cited in the text in the following way, eg: "see Additional file 1".