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DESCRIPTION

One of the premier peer-reviewed clinical journals in general and internal medicine, Mayo Clinic Proceedings is among the most widely read and highly cited scientific publications for physicians, with a circulation of approximately 127,000. While the Proceedings is sponsored by Mayo Clinic, it welcomes submissions from authors worldwide, publishing articles that focus on clinical medicine and support the professional and educational needs of its readers.

Continuously published since 1926, the Mayo Clinic Proceedings' content includes Nobel-prize-winning research. The Proceedings has an impact factor of 7.091, ranking it #12 out of 160 journals in the Medicine, General and Internal category, placing it among the best 8%. The Proceedings has experienced numerical increases in its Impact Factor for 17 of the past 21 years.

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For authors, the time from receipt of submission to first decision is usually 3 weeks and from acceptance to publication is about 12 weeks. Mayo Clinic Proceedings' acceptance rate is approximately 20%, with more than 80% of manuscripts submitted by non-Mayo authors. For novel, time-sensitive research, an expedited review is available upon request and at the discretion of the Editorial Board.

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The Compass will feature scholarly work in biomedical ethics and the health humanities. Its goal is to promote critical analysis of foundational questions that are central to the values of medicine and public health. We invite authors to explore emerging issues and under-examined topics in health care, particularly topics that have broad social impact or potential to transform the practice of medicine. Consistent with its name, The Compass will seek to move medicine forward, by clarifying professional commitments and considering creative problem-solving strategies. Authors are encouraged to contact one of the Section Editors prior to submitting an article for The Compass.

Manuscript categories included in The Compass section include: Original Articles, Review Articles, Special Articles, Concise Reviews for Clinicians, Commentaries, and Perspectives and Controversies. Authors should refer to the Instructions for Authors for specific requirements pertaining to the manuscript category of their choice. In addition, please provide a cover letter stating which Section Editor (Drs Richard Sharp or Daniel Hall-Flavin) you have consulted with in regard to your submission, and specifically state that you are submitting it for consideration in The Compass section of the journal.
**Original Articles**
These include prospective clinical trials, laboratory research, retrospective clinical analyses (eg, case series), meta-analyses, and related research. Priority for publication is given to those manuscripts with original and novel findings, particularly related to the clinical care of patients. In addition to peer review, original manuscripts will undergo statistical review by either a master's or doctorate degree statistician.

A meta-analysis is defined as a study that includes statistical pooling (combining) of data from individual studies. Meta-analyses require submission of the PRISMA checklist and the PRISMA flow chart depicting the process of study selection. These documents are required for submission but do not have to necessarily be published. Meta-analyses require a structured abstract that follows the standard MCP headings.

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These consist of a critical assessment of literature and existing data. Priority for publication is given to topics with relevance to the clinical care of patients, the advancement of medical science, or improvements in health care delivery and economics. Authors are strongly encouraged to describe within the abstract and manuscript text the methods used to focus their search of the literature (eg, PubMed, MEDLINE), the search terms used, and the date limitations of the search. Also, please indicate how studies were selected for inclusion in the review. Provide 3-5 article highlights. These points should emphasize why our audience should read your article, describe what is new or cutting edge, and how it is of interest to your colleagues. The manuscripts most competitive for publication will introduce novel ideas or refreshing speculative syntheses and will address topics of importance to large numbers of patients, evolving medical issues, or mechanistically important topics. Mayo Clinic Proceedings is not interested in publishing material that can be readily obtained from existing book chapters or topics that have recently been published in other large-circulation medical journals.

A systematic review is defined as a review that followed an explicit a priori inclusion and exclusion criteria and comprehensive database search. Systematic reviews require submission of the PRISMA checklist and the PRISMA flow chart depicting the process of study selection. These documents are required for submission but do not have to necessarily be published. Systematic reviews require a structured abstract that follows the standard MCP headings.

Reviews that do not fit the criteria of systematic reviews and meta-analyses do not require PRISMA checklist or figure and require only a nonstructured abstract, along with the 3 to 5 article highlights.

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The Editorial Board can solicit a review on any topic, and in any format, deemed appropriate, as determined by a needs-assessment analysis. In general, topics are solicited for their importance and timeliness, and authors are invited based on their expertise. Even after manuscripts are solicited, acceptance for publication is at the discretion of the Editorial Board. Hence, even though the acceptance rate for a solicited review would be expected to be greater than for unsolicited material, acceptance of solicited reviews is neither guaranteed nor universal.

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This section presents brief but informative updates on common subjects of relevance to practicing physicians. Specifically, although the topics are chosen for relevance to the journal's entire readership, they are targeted particularly to primary care physicians. A busy practitioner should be able to read the article in less than 15 minutes and obtain several good clinical tips; hence, authors should avoid describing technical details. The goals of this section are to provide practical material and to encourage application of the information by presenting questions that highlight important facts from each review. A maximum of 3 authors are allowed for a Concise Review manuscript, provided that all of the authors played a major role in the writing of the manuscript.

Continuing medical education (CME) credit is offered with the Concise Review for Clinicians section. Please see the section entitled CME Requirements for specific details.

**Understanding Disease**
This type of article provides a succinct and timely discussion of the pathophysiology and pathobiology underlying a specific, important human disease. It is intended to afford the practicing clinician with an up-to-date, readily understood, accurate discussion of the scientific underpinnings of diseases commonly encountered in clinical practice; scientific terms and concepts are to be used and discussed...
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This contribution is written by one or more recognized experts in the field. If there is more than one author, all authors should be recognized experts with similar stature in the field. The article should offer a step-by-step guide on how they would approach a patient with a given condition, based on their clinical experience and expertise.

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This contribution will be written by a large group of investigators who are specialists in a given treatment area and who base their recommendations on a thorough survey of the existing literature and on their collective clinical expertise in cutting-edge approaches to contemporary medical care. This type of article will be most valuable if it addresses evolving or controversial topics and if authored by recognized authorities or authoritative groups.

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This contribution will be written by established reputable medical societies and associations, or by a large group of investigators who are specialists in a given treatment area and who base their recommendations on a thorough survey of the existing literature and on their collective clinical expertise. This type of article is most useful if it addresses approach to diagnosis and management of common disorders, and areas in which substantial progress, variations in care, or controversies exist. For the My Treatment Approach, Consensus Recommendations, and Clinical Practice Guidelines contributions, the Editorial Board will recruit these articles and authors on the basis of a needs assessment survey. Potential authors who wish to have their ideas vetted for this series should petition the Editorial Board before they begin writing. Manuscripts will be considered for publication only after they have passed the journal's rigorous peer-review process and Editorial Board oversight. Involvement of medical writers and editors supported by the pharmaceutical industry, or researchers with significant financial conflict of interest is not acceptable for these types of articles.

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Commentaries are intended to offer expert insights into important or controversial topics related to clinical medicine, medical economics, governmental policy, ethics, or related issues. When appropriate, the Editorial Board expects authors to acknowledge a limited amount of supporting or opposing literature. Priority is given to novel thought, clear and creative writing, and the relevance of the manuscript to the interests of Proceedings' readers.

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This type of article provides a succinct and appealing discussion of a topic that is either important, timely, or controversial. A Perspective is intended to highlight and stimulate thinking and discourse on such a topic, and may do so either by: discussing and elucidating it; challenging and refuting widely accepted views pertaining to it; or by combining both approaches. The topic may involve any aspect of current understanding of disease; biomedical and clinical research; medical treatment, care, and practice; medical education and professionalism; and health care and public policy. These articles are less than 1500 words in length, and include no more than 10 references. Authors of this type of article should have relevant knowledge and understanding of the field and would be generally limited to 3
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A Brief Report will typically address an early report or observation of relevance to clinical medicine or medical science. This category is not intended to present preliminary data on structured, ongoing research but instead is intended to present unanticipated or extremely novel observations that may encourage others to perform related research or reassess their clinical practice.

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A Medical Image consists of a publication-appropriate photograph, photomicrograph, radiograph, or other type image, accompanied by a paragraph or 2 of descriptive text. Priority is given to importance of the topic, clarity of the images and message, and aesthetics. Authorship is limited to 2 authors. Medical Images are limited to 1 page in the print publication. A minimum of 1 image with a maximum of 8 images may be submitted. Each image must have its own legend (60 characters or less). Authors should clearly indicate 1 or 2 images to be included in the print version, and which images (if any) should be assigned as supplemental online only material.

**Thematic Reviews (formerly Symposium)**
Thematic Reviews are a collection of manuscripts addressing a common topic (eg, geriatrics, antimicrobial agents, cerebrovascular disease), and typically 1 or 2 manuscripts of the series are published per month, sequentially over many months, until the series is completed. Topics are determined well in advance of publication by the Editorial Board, and submission of Thematic Review articles is by invitation only. Individuals interested in identifying topics or specific Thematic Review manuscripts are encouraged to contact the editorial office. CME credit is offered with selected Thematic Review articles. Please see the section entitled CME Requirements for specific details.

**Case Reports**
Case Reports should be approximately 800 to 1800 words (up to 7 typed, double-spaced pages). Case reports must include an unstructured abstract. The number of references, tables, and figures should be appropriate for the overall length of the paper. In general, no more than 2 tables or 2 figures are necessary. To better select the highest-quality case reports, the editorial board of Mayo Clinic Proceedings has revised and codified our policies for case report review and the standards for acceptance. Manuscripts of the "case report and review of the literature" genre will not be accepted. Other case reports must first demonstrate relevance to the interest of the Mayo Clinic Proceedings readership and importance of the message before they are sent for further review.

Publication priority will be given to case reports that identify: A first-of-its-kind, unexpected, or unusual observation of a disease process that is relevant to a meaningful number of patients, such as: a new disease or syndrome a previously unknown or important manifestation of a common disease a new understanding of the pathophysiology of a common disease A new or first observation of an important adverse effect of a commonly used drug New therapeutic activity of a new treatment, including drug and non-drug therapies.
A small fraction of manuscripts rejected for publication as case reports, but offering some incremental advances in knowledge, may, if appropriately novel, be given priority for conversion to a letter to the editor.

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