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--Table footnotes should be superscripted lowercase letters (a-z).

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Guidelines for the most frequent types of articles submitted to the journal are summarized below. Specific limits for word count, references, tables, and figures are provided in table format for quick reference. Authors are required to include the word count of the text, and the number of references, tables, and figures, on the Title page of the manuscript.

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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.

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**Original Articles**
These include prospective clinical trials, laboratory research, retrospective clinical analyses (e.g., 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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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.

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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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My Treatment Approach
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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Special Articles
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Commentary
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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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.

**Editorials**

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**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
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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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