

INFORMATION FOR AUTHORS

EDITORIAL PURPOSE

Seminars in Medical Practice is a quarterly, peer-reviewed journal dedicated to helping physicians acquire the knowledge, skills, and professional attributes needed for effective practice in the contemporary health care environment.

CONTENT

Seminars in Medical Practice publishes articles, original reports, and commentaries that examine key concepts underlying quality, cost-effective, and ethical health care.

Articles

Articles vary in format depending on type, topic, and focus. Text generally should not exceed 4000 words. Authors should have expertise in the topic and provide basic instruction as well as real-life examples or scenarios to illustrate key concepts.

Practice Basics. Articles exploring major topics related to the contemporary health care system, with an emphasis on the skills and practical knowledge physicians need to participate effectively.

Evidence-Based Practice. Articles examining the specific skills needed to apply current best evidence to patient care decisions.

Professionalism. Articles exploring the evolving professional role and responsibilities of physicians and the professional challenges faced in the current practice environment.

Communication. Articles examining principles of effective clinical communication and their application to practice.

Trends and New Technology. Articles describing the nature and impact of health care delivery trends and technological innovations on physician practice.

Research Reports

Studies addressing innovative approaches to teaching or assessing essential skills, knowledge, or attributes of contemporary physicians. The approach must have been implemented so that the results and experiences of the trainees can be reported. Must include a structured abstract describing the objective, design, setting, participants, educational outcome measures, results, and conclusion. Text should not exceed 4000 words.

Descriptive Reports

Reports describing innovative approaches to educating or training physicians for contemporary medical practice, with an emphasis on the practical implications of incorporating such approaches into training programs. Text should not exceed 4000 words.

Commentaries

Editorials. Short opinion pieces on topics related to articles published in *Seminars in Medical Practice*. Text should not exceed 1500 words.

Essays. Descriptive pieces that detail experiences of residents or newly practicing physicians. The goal of these essays is to offer insights or advice to the individual making the transition from trainee to practitioner. Text should not exceed 1500 words.

Letters to the Editor

Opinions on articles published in *Seminars in Medical Practice* or on other related topics. Text should not exceed 800 words.

Manuscript Format and Style

Format: Manuscripts (including tables and figure legends) must be typed, double-spaced. The phone number, fax number, and e-mail address (if available) of the corresponding author must be included.

References: Manuscripts should include as many references as necessary to represent the current literature and support discussions. A reference list must be provided at the end of the manuscript and include complete bibliographic data. References must be numbered sequentially in the order first cited in the text. For reference style, see the *Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals*, 5th edition. List all authors when there are 4 or fewer; when there are 4 or more, list the first 3 followed by "et al."

Figures/Tables: Tables and figures must be numbered sequentially in the order first cited in the text. Each figure must be accompanied by a legend that describes the figure and defines all abbreviations and symbols. For photographic figures, submit a glossy print or slide. For drawn figures, submit a clean, scannable copy. For digital illustrations, submit a GIF or JPEG file translatable into Photoshop. Provide a complete reference for any borrowed material; the publication staff will obtain permission to reprint or adapt such items. Authors should keep at least one copy of all original artwork to guard against loss or damage by mail.

Drug Names: Generic names must be used for all drugs.

Financial Support: Authors must disclose sources of support for the work in the form of grants, equipment, drugs, or any combination of these.

EDITORIAL PROCESS

All authors are encouraged to submit an article outline prior to submitting a complete manuscript. The Editors will evaluate the outline for appropriateness, and the author will be offered specific editorial guidance for writing the article. Invited articles are reviewed by the Editors and at least 2 external reviewers, who are asked to comment on the educational value and relevance of the paper, the strength of the paper, and the quality of the writing. Unsolicited articles are read by an Editor, who decides whether to send the paper for external review; about 70% of these papers are reviewed by at least 2 external reviewers, and roughly 60% of those which are reviewed are accepted. The quality and promptness of all external reviews are graded to help maintain the quality of the peer-review process. Acceptance decisions are based on the strength and quality of the paper, the importance of the topic, and the relevance for *Seminars in Medical Practice* readers. Decisions about manuscripts sent for peer review are usually made within 8 weeks of receipt. Papers not accepted for publication are not returned unless specifically requested. An electronic copy of the paper will be requested if the paper is accepted for publication. Papers are edited for clarity, consistency, and correct grammatical construction. Page proofs are sent to the corresponding author for corrections.

SUBMISSION

Send specific inquiries regarding submission as well as article outlines and final manuscripts (2 complete copies plus cover letter) to:

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