INTRODUCTION
The Nature Reviews clinical journals commission leaders in the field to write clinical content of the highest quality, authority and accessibility. Content is subject to rigorous review by our in-house editors and/or peer-review, and counsel is provided by the international Advisory Boards to ensure comprehensive coverage of topical issues.

The Nature Reviews clinical titles were formerly published as the Nature Clinical Practice series. In 2004, journals covering cardiology, gastroenterology and hepatology, oncology, and urology were launched, followed in 2005 by endocrinology, nephrology, neurology and rheumatology. All these subject areas continue to be covered in the Nature Reviews journals. Whatever your discipline, Nature Reviews provides access to the highest-quality overview of your field.

AUTHORSHIP
We do not require all authors of a paper to sign a letter of submission, nor do we impose an order on the list of authors. All authors are, however, required to declare their contributions to the article via our manuscript submission and tracking system, and a short statement including this information is published with the article in print and online. If a proposed author is deemed not to have contributed substantially, they may be removed from the author list and their contribution will instead appear as an acknowledgement in the published article.

If an article has multiple authors, a corresponding author must be appointed to be the main point of contact with the journal team; the corresponding author is responsible for informing all coauthors of matters arising and ensuring they are dealt with promptly. Unless another name is stipulated at acceptance, this author will also be named in the published article as the contact for any matters arising after publication, and his or her contact email and postal address will be published.

The opinions, data and statements in all articles are deemed to be those of the authors, and not those of Nature Publishing Group or the authors’ institutions.

ORGANIZATION OF CONTENT
The Nature Reviews clinical journals are organized into the following main sections: Editorials, Research Highlights, News & Views, Reviews and Perspectives. All articles are published online as soon as they are finalized (Advance Online Publication) then, once allocated to an issue, they are published in print and in the permanent online archive.

Editorials
These are opinion articles written by the in-house team.

Research Highlights
This current-awareness section provides short summaries based on relevant research articles published by other journals, written by the in-house editorial team. Coverage is decided by the in-house editors.

News & Views
This section provides a forum in which clinical news and advances can be communicated and set into context. These are timely, topical, succinct, commentary-type articles that are based on a research paper, clinical guideline or similar. They discuss in a journalistic style key issues arising for practice and research.

Reviews
Commissioned from leaders in the field, Reviews aim to provide authoritative overviews of a field or topic.

Perspectives
This section provides a forum for extended, opinionated discussion of a field or topic. Points of view should be clearly expressed and put into the wider context of the given topic.

MANUSCRIPT PREPARATION
Detailed instructions on manuscript preparation and processes relating to individual article types are available in PDF format via the online Guidelines to Authors (News & Views, Reviews, Perspectives), but some general notes are provided here.

Language
Readers struggle with jargon-laden language or concepts, even in disciplines close to their own. Overuse of abbreviations or acronyms can also make text difficult to read and understand. Authors should, therefore, use plain language to explain concepts, and write as many terms as possible in full while adhering to the agreed word limit.
Advice on acceptable abbreviations can be sought from the journal team.

**Typography and house style**

Typographic and house styles are used to ensure clarity and consistency within and between articles and journals. House style indicates the journal’s preferred use of language and way of referring to particular items of information, for example nomenclature, spelling, and reference formatting. Some basic guidelines to help you prepare an article for publication in a clinical Nature Reviews journal are below:

- Use Oxford UK English spelling
- Drug names: International Nonproprietary Names (INNs) should be used as a default whenever possible. If proprietary names must be used (e.g. to differentiate preparations), they should be marked correctly with ® or ™ and the manufacturers’ details must be provided
- Human gene names should follow HUGO gene nomenclature
- Protein names should follow Uniprot nomenclature
- SI units should be followed

**References**

References should be cited in the main article text with sequential, superscript numbers and should be listed in numerical order at the end of the article. Any references applicable only to display items (i.e. not cited in the main text) should be cited in the legends and added to the end of the reference list.

The following formats cover the most commonly used reference types:

4. Author, A. B. In Title of Book (ed. Surname, I. N.) 75–98 (Publisher, Year).

If a reference has six or more authors, only the first author should be listed followed by et al. The Nature Reviews reference style can be obtained for Endnote.

Do not cite manuscripts in preparation or submitted papers that have not definitely been accepted for publication. Meeting abstracts and presentations may be included in some instances.

Citations to personal communications and authors’ own unpublished data are not encouraged, but we realize they are sometimes necessary. They should be included within the main text, using the format (A.N. Author, unpublished data) or (A.N. Author, personal communication). Written permission from the correspondent must be provided to accompany citations of personal communication.

**Display items**

**Figures**

Figures may include photographs, slides, scan images, graphs and/or drawn schematics. All figures will be styled and/or redrawn by our in-house art editors. All symbols and abbreviations used in the figure must be defined within a key and the figure legend, respectively. For further details on preparation of figures, please see our artwork guidelines.

**Tables**

Tables should be used to show information that would be difficult to describe clearly and succinctly in the text. Tables should be provided as part of the main article Word documents. To qualify as a table, at least 2 columns of information must be included. They should be clear and as simple as possible, and must fit on one portrait-oriented A4 page (half a page for News & Views), with all text no smaller than 9-point font. All abbreviations used in a table must be defined in footnotes.

**Boxes**

Boxes are useful tools for explaining basic concepts to nonspecialist readers, presenting lists, such as disorders to exclude in differential diagnosis, etc. Boxes must contain only one column of text (maximum 300 words), but the information may be subdivided by headings and/or bulleted; they cannot contain figures. All abbreviations used in a box must be defined in footnotes. Boxes should be provided as part of the main article Word document.

NPG discourages the use or adaptation of previously published display items (for example, figures, tables, images, videos or text boxes). However, we recognize that to illustrate some concepts the use of published data is required and the reuse of previously published display items might be necessary. Please note that in these instances we might not be able to obtain the necessary rights for some images to be reused (as is, or adapted versions) in our articles. In such cases, we will contact you to discuss the sourcing of alternative material.

If you are unsure about the suitability of content, size, format or style of any display item please contact the journal team.

**SUBMISSION**

Before submission, you must ensure your article has not been submitted to and is not being considered for publication by any other journal.

Nature Reviews journals use a fully web-based manuscript submission and tracking system. Manuscripts should be submitted online only; you will receive an access URL from the commissioning editor when you agree to write an article. Please do not send files by post or email unless requested to do so by the journal staff.

**IN-HOUSE EDITORIAL PROCESSES**

**Commissioning**

All articles are commissioned or written by the in-house editors. We aim to balance content to reflect the various
areas covered by the journal’s scope, in terms of the amount of research being undertaken in each area, the timing of the articles, and the types of articles published over the course of the year. We welcome suggestions and ideas for articles, but discourage the submission of non-commissioned articles. Proposals for articles should be submitted online through our manuscript submission and tracking system (please see the link at the bottom of the next page). Suggestions should be sent in the form of a synopsis of up to 250 words, including an introductory paragraph, a description of the article structure, and a list of 10–20 key, recent references.

Peer-review
Our Reviews and Perspectives are subject to rigorous peer-review. The purpose of peer-review is to ensure that our articles are balanced and accurate. Authors are encouraged to express their opinions, but should distinguish clearly between generally accepted views and more personal perspectives.

On receipt the commissioning editor will check that the article meets the requirements confirmed when the author agreed to write. If the editor feels the criteria are not met he or she might return the manuscript with recommendations or discuss the manuscript with the author before peer-review.

Articles deemed to meet initial criteria are generally sent to three experts in the field, although the number might vary. After peer-review, the reports will be sent to the corresponding author along with the handling editor’s decision. If revisions are requested at this stage, you will be asked to return the manuscript along with a rebuttal letter.

Editing and artwork
All articles undergo editing by a content editor, taking into account structure, flow, clarity, language, scientific correctness, consistency and house style, and all figures are redrawn and/or styled by our in-house art editors, to ensure they meet our high publication standards. The degree of editing varies from individual article to article, according to a host of factors, although Reviews are generally edited heavily. All suggested changes are subject to approval by the authors.

Proofs
Proofs are emailed to the corresponding author in PDF format. Marked-up proofs should be returned to the editorial office within 48 hours. All important changes should have been approved before acceptance; therefore, only changes deemed essential by the editor (factual correctness, typing errors, and serious layout problems) may be made at this stage. Authors have 48 hours to check proofs.

Corrections
If an author of a published paper becomes aware of an error in it, he or she should contact the content editor by email. The journal team will decide whether a correction is necessary (e.g. an error relating to factual correctness, data or searchability might warrant a corrections; disagreement about wording might not) to maintain maximum clarity for readers, fairness, and maintenance of the integrity of the published record. Published clarifications can take a variety of formats.

Correspondence
Items of correspondence will be considered for publication at the editors’ discretion. These must relate to articles previously published in the same journal and should be no more than 500 words long, and contain up to 15 references and no more than 2 display items. Correspondence items are edited by the journal team and the editors reserve the right to request peer review. Correspondence items will be published online only.

CONSENT AND PERMISSIONS
Reuse of content
Where possible, you should submit original text and display items. If, however, you wish to reuse previously published material (your own or another author’s) or previously unpublished material owned by another individual, you must indicate this clearly in your cover letter and/or the article (e.g. in the figure legend) so the correct permission can be sought.

Copyright in Nature Reviews articles is transferred to Nature Publishing Group. The Copyright Assignment form will be provided to the corresponding author when the article reaches the accept-in-principle stage, or can be obtained online. Each author should sign a copy of the Copyright Assignment form and return it to the editorial office as soon as possible. Certain uses of copyrighted content are allowed, but permission must be sought from Nature Publishing Group beforehand. A detailed explanation of why this policy has been adopted and links to obtain permission are available here.

Patient consent
For all articles including information or clinical photographs that could in any way lead to a patient or patients being identified by readers, written and signed consent to publish must be obtained from each patient concerned before publication—preferably before submission—and forwarded to the journal team. Authors may use their own institution’s consent form, or one can be obtained from the commissioning editor.

REPRINTS
Author and commercial reprints
To obtain author reprints of any Nature Reviews article, please visit Nature Publishing Group’s reprints pages.

SELF-ARCHIVING
Nature Publishing Group encourages authors to self-archive their articles. Six months after the official publication date, authors of articles in Nature Reviews journals...
are free to post their own Word or Tex version of the accepted (peer-reviewed and revised) article (but not the official published PDF or HTML versions; nor the NPG version of figures, tables and boxes; nor figures, tables and boxes originally published elsewhere for which they do not possess Copyright) on their own personal website, in their funding agency's archive, or in their institutional repository. NPG's Manuscript Deposition Service to PubMedCentral does not apply to articles published in Nature Reviews journals.

ONLINE FEATURES
Navigation
There are three main ways to navigate the Nature Reviews journals online. Searching can be done with the Quicksearch feature, which is available on all journal pages, or by using the search window. Browsing by issue is the second option and is straightforward, but we also support browsing by article type. So, if you want to just look at the most recent Research Highlights that we have published, select the Research Highlights link within the Archive section, to which a link is available on all pages.

How to view an article
There are various options for viewing the article or parts of the article:
- Full text in HTML format
- Full text in PDF, printable format
- Figures and tables index, which allows you to flick through the figures and tables in an article.

Supplementary information
Articles may be accompanied online by supplementary information at the editor's discretion, but such items should be kept to a minimum and must be directly relevant to the article. Supplementary information is not edited, so should be provided in a format suitable for converting to PDF for publication. Items should be cited in the main article—for example “(Supplementary Figure 1 online)”. Each supplementary item should have its own separate reference list. The modification of supplementary information after a paper has been published requires a formal correction, so authors are encouraged to check their supplementary information carefully.

Author biographies
A link at the end of the author list, ‘About the authors’, takes you to a short biography for each listed author.

COMPETING INTERESTS
In the interests of transparency and to help readers to form their own judgments of potential bias, Nature journals require all authors to declare any competing interests both in the submitted article and via our manuscript submission and tracking system. A detailed explanation of why this policy has been adopted can be found here.

A shortened form of the declaration is published as part of the printed article. A more detailed version is published as part of the article online. If an author declares no competing interests, a statement to that effect will be published in print and online.

We recognize that some authors might be bound by confidentiality agreements. In such cases, itemized disclosure may be replaced by suitable wording, such as: “The author declares that he is bound by confidentiality agreements preventing disclosure of his competing interests.”

Definition
For details of what is considered to be a competing interest please see the detailed information here.

INDEXING INFORMATION
The Nature Reviews clinical titles are indexed in the following places:
- Index Medicus/MEDLINE
- PubMed
- EMBASE/Excerpta Medica
- ISI Web of Knowledge (Science Citation Index Expanded)
- Current Contents/Clinical Medicine
- CINAHL
- CAB Abstracts
- CAS (Chemical Abstracts Service)

HINARI
Nature Publishing Group is proud to be involved in initiatives that support the communication of scientific research in the developing world. All the Nature Reviews journals are part of the World Health Organization's HINARI, the Health InterNetwork Access to Research Initiative, which provides free access to public institutions in developing countries.