

GUIDE FOR AUTHORS

Guide for Authors

Welcome to the author guidelines for *Kidney International*. The instructions below are structured so you can quickly and easily answer the following questions:

1. Is my manuscript suitable for *Kidney International*?
2. How do I format my manuscript for *Kidney International*?
3. How do I submit my manuscript to *Kidney International*?

Kidney International is published twice a month by Nature Publishing Group and is abstracted or indexed in:

- Index Medicus/Medline
- Science Citation Index
- Current Contents/Life Sciences
- Current Contents/Clinical Medicine
- SciSearch
- BIOSIS
- Chemical Abstracts
- EMBASE/Excerpta Medica
- Reference Update
- CABS
- Biological Abstracts
- Global Health
- MDX Health Digest
- EBSCO
- Adonis
- PASCAL

Scope

Kidney International aims to inform the renal researcher and the practicing nephrologist on all aspects of renal research, including:

- The latest clinical studies on emerging developments in renal medicine.
- The highest level of original research studies in clinical and basic renal research.
- In each issue some of these articles will be highlighted by commentaries that aim to put these studies in the appropriate context. These will form a research tool for clinical and basic investigators.
- Editorials that highlight important issues in international nephrology
- *Nephrology sans Frontieres* - occasional short articles that discuss matters of local interest to nephrologists around the world, but which we feel need to be known by nephrologists world-wide
- Short reviews on hot topics and in depth reviews about major issues in renal research.
- Controversial discussions on renal therapeutics or diagnosis written by two opposing authorities
- State of the Art teaching materials including Renal Consults and clinico-pathological conferences where eminent clinicians discuss difficult or interesting cases illustrated by multiple pathology, imaging studies and charts
- Images in Nephrology which are presentations of interesting images in renal pathology, radiology chosen for their illustrative nature or simply for their esthetic qualities.
- Issues of importance to the international renal community including the politics of funding; of organ transplantation, of adequacy of dialysis, of world-wide affordability of end stage renal care and many other topical issues.
- Journal Club are synopses that bring you the latest research highlights from across a wide spectrum of journals in fields relevant to renal research
- Book Reviews

Editorial policy

The types of manuscripts accepted by *KI* are: (1) Review, (2) Minireview, (3) Original Article, (4) Rapid Communication, (5) Commentaries, (6) Technical Notes, (7) Letters to the Editors (8), Editorial (9), Renal Consult, (10) Nephrology Images

Manuscripts that do not adhere to the following instructions will be returned to the corresponding author for technical revision before undergoing peer review.

Format of manuscripts

General format: Manuscripts must be typed in English and double-spaced. All text including legends, footnotes, tables and references are to be on one side of the page only. All manuscript pages must be numbered.

Title page: This should include (a) the complete manuscript title; (b) all authors' full names (listed as first name, middle initial, last name), highest academic degrees, and affiliations; (c) the name and address for correspondence, fax number, telephone number, and e-mail address; and (d) the sources of support that require acknowledgment. Please ensure that all forms of support are acknowledged, including pharmaceutical and industry support, on the cover page. A running headline of no more than 50 characters (not counting space) should be supplied.

Abstract and Keywords: The abstract should be no longer than 250 words, stating the main problem, methods, results, and conclusions. There should be no subheadings in the abstract. It must be factual and comprehensive. The use of abbreviations and acronyms should be limited and general statements (e.g. "the significance of the results is discussed") should be avoided.

Text: The manuscript should be organized under the following four main headings:

- Introduction
- Results
- Discussion
- Methods

Preparation of manuscripts:

(1) Review [invited]

Word Limit: 5,000 words including abstract but excluding references, tables and figures.

Abstract: 250 words maximum

References: No maximum

Reviews are comprehensive analyses of specific topics in nephrology that are usually solicited by the Editors. Proposals for reviews may be submitted; however, in this case authors should only send an outline of the proposed paper for initial consideration. Both solicited and unsolicited review articles will undergo peer review prior to acceptance. *Kidney International* will cover charges for color images.

(2) Minireview [only by invitation of Editors]

Word Limit: 3000 words including abstract but excluding references, tables and figures.

Abstract: 250 words maximum

References: 20

Minireviews of topical and highly focused subjects are usually solicited by the Editors. Proposals for reviews may be submitted; however, in this case authors should only send an outline of the proposed paper for initial consideration. Both solicited and unsolicited review articles will undergo peer review prior to acceptance. The approach of review articles should be critical but balanced. *Kidney International* will cover charges for color images.

(3) Original Article

Word Limit: 4000 words including abstract but excluding references, tables and figures.

Abstract: 250 words maximum

References: No limit

Full-length reports of current research in either basic or clinical science.

(4) Rapid Communication

Word Limit: 1500 words including abstract but excluding references, tables and figures.

Abstract: 250 words maximum

References: Up to 35

Figures/ tables: Up to 4 in total

Methods or findings that will substantially and immediately affect research or clinical practice will be considered for publication as a Rapid Communication. The words "Rapid Communication" and the category chosen must appear at the top left corner of the title page. Organization of Rapid Communications should be the same as for regular manuscripts.

(5) Commentaries [only by invitation of Editors]

Commentaries discuss a paper published in a specific issue and should set the problems addressed by the paper in the wider context of the field. It should not exceed 1500 words, and have 10 or fewer references. The journal article discussed should be one of the numbered references. The title of the

commentary should not exceed 115 characters, including the spaces between words and it must include a brief abstract of 45 words. Commentaries could have one figure which we will be happy to help you draw

(6) Technical Notes

Word Limit: 1500 words including abstract but excluding references, tables and figures.

Abstract: 250 words maximum

References: Up to 20

Examples of appropriate subject matter include descriptions of new laboratory or clinical methods, new apparatus, or critical modifications of established techniques. Organization of Technical Notes should be the same as for regular manuscripts except that section headings should be omitted.

(7) Letters to the Editor

Word Limit: 250 words

Abstract: no abstract required for this manuscript type

References: Up to 4

Figure/ Table: Up to 1

Letters to the Editor will be considered for publication, subject to editing. Letters must contain information critical to a certain area or must be confirmatory of data recently published in *Kidney International*.

(8) Editorial [only by invitation of Editors]

Word Limit: 1600 words

Abstract: no abstract required for this manuscript type

References: up to 5

Proposals for Editorials may be submitted; however, in this case authors should only send an outline of the proposed paper for initial consideration.

(9) The Renal Consult

Word Limit: 2000 words including abstract but excluding references, tables and figures.

Abstract: no abstract required for this manuscript type

Figure/ Table: Up to 5

References: Up to 20

This is designed to enhance the value of the journal for the practicing nephrologist and nephropathologist. In this series, focused problems in the diagnosis and treatment of renal disease will be published. A short case vignette will be followed by a discussion and relevant references. The use of clinical illustrative materials, such as x-ray films and biopsies is encouraged as are flow diagrams and tables.

(10) Nephrology images

Illustrative images that are unique or highly illustrative of specific occurrences in Nephrology. They might include renal pathology, radiology, specific skin lesions etc. They will be reviewed by the Editorial Board prior to acceptance. They should be accompanied by a brief one-paragraph description not to exceed 35 words of relevant clinical information.

Originality

A submitted manuscript must be an original contribution not previously published (except as an abstract or preliminary report), must not be under consideration for publication elsewhere, and, if accepted, must not be published elsewhere in a similar form, in any language, without the consent of the ISN. Each person listed as an author is expected to have participated in the study to a significant extent. Although the editors and referees make every effort to ensure the validity of published manuscripts, the final responsibility rests with the authors, not with *Kidney International*, its editors, the International Society of Nephrology or Nature Publishing Group.

Informed Consent and Ethics

When reporting experiments on human subjects, indicate whether the procedures were in accordance with the ethical standards of the responsible committee on human experimentation (institutional or regional) or with the Helsinki Declaration of 1975 (and as revised in 1983). Include any Institutional Review Board or Animal Care and Use Committee protocol numbers as warranted by experimental design.

Conflict of Interest

At the time of submission, each author must disclose any involvement, financial or otherwise, that might potentially bias his or her work. This information should be listed on the title page. Any note of research grants and/or funding should also be mentioned in this manner. Such relationships will be reviewed, and further clarification may be requested if deemed necessary by the editors or reviewers.

Clinical Trials Registry

We require, as a condition of consideration for publication, registration in a public trials registry. Trials must register at or before the onset of patient enrollment. This policy applies to any clinical trial starting enrollment after January 1, 2006. For trials that began enrollment before this date, we require registration by April 1, 2006, before considering the trial for publication. We define a clinical trial as any research project that prospectively assigns human subjects to intervention or comparison groups to study the cause-and-effect relationship between a medical intervention and a health outcome. Studies designed for other purposes, such as to study pharmacokinetics or major toxicity (e.g., phase 1 trials) are exempt.

We do not advocate one particular registry, but registration must be with a registry that meets the following minimum criteria: (1) accessible to the public at no charge; (2) searchable by standard, electronic (Internet-based) methods; (3) open to all prospective registrants free of charge or at minimal cost; (4) validates registered information; (5) identifies trials with a unique number; and (6) includes information on the investigator(s), research question or hypothesis, methodology, intervention and comparisons, eligibility criteria, primary and secondary outcomes measured, date of registration, anticipated or actual start date, anticipated or actual date of last follow-up, target number of subjects, status (anticipated, ongoing or closed) and funding source(s).

Registries that currently meet these criteria include (1) The registry sponsored by the United States National Library of Medicine (www.clinicaltrials.gov); (2) The International Standard Randomised Controlled Trial Number Registry (www.controlled-trials.com); (3) The Cochrane Renal Group Registry (www.cochrane-renal.org/trialsubmissionform.php); (4) The National (United Kingdom) Research Register (www.update-software.com/national/); and (5) European Clinical Trials Database (<http://eudract.emea.eu.int>).

Abbreviations: Abbreviations should be defined at the first mention in the text and in each table and figure. For a list of standard abbreviations, please consult the Council of Biology Editors Style Guide (available from the Council of Science Editors, 9650 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20814) or other standard sources. Write out the full term for each abbreviation at its first use unless it is a standard unit of measure.

Style: The American Medical Association Manual of Style (9th edition), Stedman's Medical Dictionary (27th edition) and Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary (10th edition) should be used as standard references. Refer to drugs and therapeutic agents by their accepted generic or chemical name, and do not abbreviate them (a proprietary name may be given only with the first use of the generic name). Code numbers should be used only when a generic name is not yet available (the chemical name and a figure giving the chemical structure of the drug is required). Copyright or trade names of drugs should be capitalized and placed in parentheses after the name of the drug. Names and locations (city and state in USA; city and country outside USA) of manufacturers of drugs, supplies, or equipment cited in a manuscript are required to comply with trademark law and should be provided in parentheses. Quantitative data may be reported in the units used in the original measurement, but SI units are preferred, including those applicable to body weight, mass (weight) and temperature.

References

References should be listed in order of appearance (Vancouver style). In the text, number references in order of appearance using Arabic numerals (e.g. 1, 2, 3) in parentheses for citations. The reference list (starting on a separate page) should contain the references in the order in which they are cited in the text. Only published works (as well as manuscripts already accepted for publication) which are referred to in the text should be listed in the reference list. The reference list must not contain any unpublished observations, personal communications, etc. Kindly cite such sources solely within the text (in parentheses), not in the reference list. Do not list more than three authors per reference. Should there be four or more, please include only the first three followed by "et al."

The following examples demonstrate correct reference style:

Journal articles:

Fan SL-S, Almond MK, Ball E, *et al*: Pamidronate therapy as prevention of bone loss following renal transplantation. *Kidney Int* 57:684–690, 2000

Supplement articles:

Fogo AB: Glomerular hypertension abnormal glomerular growth, and progression of renal diseases. *Kidney Int* 57(Suppl 75):S15–S21, 2000

Books:

Lameire N, Mehta RL (editors): *Complications of Dialysis*, New York, Marcel Dekker, Inc., 2000, 875 pp

Articles in books:

4. Weidner N, Buckalew VM Jr: Sickle cell anemia, sickle cell trait, and polycythemic states, in *Renal Pathology* (vol 2), edited by Tisher CC, Brenner BM, Philadelphia, JB Lippincott Company, 1989, pp 1417–1436

Figures

Figures and images should be labeled sequentially, numbered and cited in the text. Figure legends should be printed, double spaced, on a separate sheet titled 'Titles and legends to figures'. Figures should be referred to specifically in the text of the paper but should not be embedded within the text. The use of three-dimensional histograms is strongly discouraged when the addition of the third dimension gives no extra information. If a table or figure has been published before, the authors must obtain written permission to reproduce the material in both print and electronic formats from the copyright owner and submit it with the manuscript. This follows for quotes, illustrations and other materials taken from previously published works not in the public domain. The original source should be cited in the figure caption or table footnote.

Color charges

Color figures can be reproduced if necessary, but the authors will be expected to contribute towards the cost of publication. A quote will be supplied upon acceptance of your paper. Charges are:

1 figure:	\$750
2 figures:	\$1000
3 or 4 figures:	\$1500
5 or 6 figures:	\$2000

Figure legends

Legends must be submitted for all figures. They should be brief and specific, and should appear on a separate manuscript page after the Reference section. Use scale markers in the image for electron micrographs, and indicate the type of stain used.

Artwork guidelines

Detailed guidelines for submitting artwork can be found by downloading the guidelines PDF (<http://www.nature.com/aj/artworkguidelines.pdf>). Using the guidelines, please submit production quality artwork with your initial online submission. If you have followed the guidelines, we will not require the artwork to be resubmitted following the peer-review process, if your paper is accepted for publication.

Figures in Print

Authors are requested to follow our instructions on how to prepare their figures, for more information see <http://www.nature.com/aj/artworkguidelines.pdf>. We request that at submission, ALL figures are of a high enough quality to be assessed in the peer review process.

Minimum Resolutions:

- Halftone images 300 dpi (dots per inch)
- Color images 300 dpi saved as CMYK
- Images containing text 400 dpi
- Line art 1000 dpi

Sizes:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Figure Width – single image | 86mm
(Should be able to fit into a single column of the printed journal) |
| Figure Width – multi-part image | 178mm
(Should be able to fit into a double column of the printed journal) |
| Text Size | 8 point
(Should be readable after reduction – avoid large type or thick lines) |
| | Line Width Between 0.5 and 1 point |

Color on the web

Authors who wish their articles to have FREE color figures on the web (only available in the HTML (full text) version of manuscripts) must supply separate files in the following format. These files should be submitted as supplementary information and authors are asked to mention they would like color figures on the web in their submission letter.

For Single Images:

Width	500 pixels (authors should select "constrain proportions", or equivalent instructions, to allow the application to set the correct height automatically.)
Resolution	72 dpi (dots per inch) – or "Save for Web" if using Photoshop®
Format	JPEG for photographs GIF for line drawings or charts
Filenaming	Please save image with .jpg or .gif extension to ensure it can be read by all platforms and graphics packages.

For Multi-part Images:

Width	900 pixels (authors should select "constrain proportions", or equivalent instruction, to allow the application to set the correct height automatically.)
Resolution	72 dpi (dots per inch) – or "Save for Web" if using Photoshop®
Format	JPEG for photographs GIF for line drawings or charts
Filenaming	Please save image with .jpg or .gif extension to ensure it can be read by all platforms and graphics packages.

Tables

Each table should be double-spaced on a separate sheet and numbered consecutively in the order of first citation in the text. Supply a brief title for each, but place explanatory matter in the footnotes (not in the heading). Do not use internal horizontal and vertical lines, and make sure that each table is cited in the text.

Journal style

As the electronic submission will provide the basic material for typesetting, it is important that papers are prepared in the general editorial style of the journal.

1. See the artwork guidelines (<http://www.nature.com/aj/artworkguidelines.pdf>) for information on labeling of figures
2. Do not make rules thinner than 1 pt (0.36mm)
3. Use a coarse hatching pattern rather than shading for tints in graphs
4. Colour should be distinct when used as an identifying tool
5. Use SI units throughout
6. Spaces, not commas should be used to separate thousands
7. Abbreviations should be preceded by the words for which they stand in the first instance of use
8. Text should be double spaced with a wide margin

File formats

File formats for manuscript files, figures and tables that are acceptable for our electronic manuscript submission process are given on the online forms. Please follow our artwork guidelines (<http://www.nature.com/aj/artworkguidelines.pdf>) for submitting figures, and use a common word-processing package (such as Microsoft Word) for the text. Either embed tables converted into images at the end of your Word document, or as separate files in whichever program you used to generate them. If you submit raw data, this can be done in Excel.

Supplementary information

Supplementary information is peer-reviewed material directly relevant to the conclusion of an article that cannot be included in the printed version owing to space or format constraints. It is posted on the journal's web site and linked to the article when the article is published and may consist of data files, graphics, movies or extensive tables. The printed article must be complete and self-explanatory without the supplementary information. Supplementary information enhances a reader's understanding of the paper, but is not essential to that understanding. Supplementary information must be supplied to the editorial office in its final form for peer review. On acceptance, the final version of the peer-reviewed supplementary information should be submitted with the accepted paper. Supplementary information is not copy edited, so authors should ensure that it is supplied ready for publication online. To ensure that the contents of the supplementary information files can be viewed by the editor(s), referees and readers, please also submit a 'read-me' file containing brief instructions on how to use the file. The supplementary information may not be altered, nor new supplementary information added, after the paper has been accepted for publication.

Supplying supplementary information files Please supply the supplementary information via the electronic manuscript submission and tracking system, in an acceptable file format (see below). Authors should: include a text summary (no more than 50 words) to describe the contents of each file; identify the types of files (file formats) submitted and include the text 'Supplementary information is available at *Kidney International's* website' at the end of the article and before the references.

Accepted file formats Quick Time files (.mov), graphical image files (.gif), HTML files (.html), MPEG movie files (.mpg), JPEG image files (.jpg), sound files (.wav), plain ASCII text (.txt), Acrobat files (.pdf), MS Word documents (.doc), Postscript files (.ps) and MS Excel spreadsheet documents (.xls). File sizes must be as small as possible, so that they can be downloaded quickly. Images should not exceed 640 x 480 pixels but we would recommend 480 x 360 pixels as the maximum frame size for movies. We would also recommend a frame rate of 15 frames per second. If applicable to the presentation of the supplementary information, use a 256-color palette. Please consider the use of lower specification for all of these points if the supplementary information can still be represented clearly. Our recommended maximum data rate is 150 KB/s.

The number of files should be limited to eight, and the total file size should not exceed 8 MB. Individual files should not exceed 1 MB. Please seek advice from the editorial office before sending files larger than our maximum size to avoid delays in publication. Further questions about the submission or preparation of supplementary information should be directed to the editorial office.

Submission of papers

If you are ready to submit an article please visit the Online Submission page:

<http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/ki>

License to Publish

The corresponding author must complete and sign the License to Publish form upon acceptance of the manuscript and return it to the editorial office. Failure to do so will result in delays to the publication of your paper. A copy of the License to Publish form can be found under "Instructions & Forms" on the online submission page: <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/ki>

Advance Online Publication

All original articles and reviews are published ahead of print on Advance Online Publication. This will be the final version of the manuscript and will subsequently appear, unchanged, in print.

Proofs

An e-mail will be sent to the corresponding author with a URL link from where proofs can be collected. Proofs must be returned by fax within 48 hours of receipt. Failure to do so may result in a delay to publication. Extensive corrections cannot be made at this stage.

Page charges

Manuscripts accepted for publication in the *Kidney International* will incur page charges to cover, in part, the cost of publication. A charge of \$75 will be issued for each journal page.

Offprints

Offprints may be ordered using the order form available for download with the proofs.

Business matters

To find out who to contact for business correspondence and enquiries such as advertising, subscriptions, permissions, papers in production or publishing a supplement, please visit our publisher's contacts page at http://www.nature.com/ki/contact_npg.html.

Alternatively, you can write to: *Kidney International*, Academic Journals Division, Nature Publishing Group, 345 Park Avenue South, 10th Floor, New York, NY 10010-1707, USA.