



## Writing for medical journals: ten points

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# Writing for medical journals

10 points

# 1. Know your topic

Keep up to date

Frame your research in a way that  
contributes to current debate

## 2. Know the journal

Know what journals are out there

Target the right journal

- Not everything is a Lancet article
- Explain to editors why this journal

Target the journal section

- Primary research, viewpoint, commentary, letter...
- Follow author guidelines

# 3. Peer review

Improves critical thinking

Builds credibility

# 4. All first drafts are rubbish

Trust your work

Accept criticism

Work with people you trust: writing is iteration

# 5. Avoid mistrust

Spelling

Inconsistencies

Formatting

# 6. Unsubmitted manuscripts are annoying

Get the draft out of your inbox

Harass co-authors to send you back the draft

Get to journal



# 7. Make editors' lives easier

Lancet editors read c.60 manuscripts a week

Make their life easy

- cover letter
- format

# 8. Take reviewers seriously

Answer every point

Agree as much as you can

Disagree politely

# 9. Reviewers are often wrong

Don't be intimidated

Consider appealing

# 10. There is no such thing as a rejected manuscript

It's just another unsubmitted manuscript