Instructions for authors and publication rules in *Medicentro Electrónica*: 2023 Update

*Medicentro Electrónica journal*, located at the University of Medical Sciences, is the oldest organ of expression of the health system in Villa Clara province. It is oriented to promote and publish the scientific production of the professionals of the territory. Its mission is to contribute to the development of science in Public Health through the selection, evaluation and publication of scientific articles of proven quality, novelty and relevance.

It is published in electronic support, quarterly, at the following address: [http://medicentro.sld.cu/](http://medicentro.sld.cu/); and develops a set of activities aimed at providing advice to those interested in publishing original, review and special articles, letters to the editor, case reports, communications and editorials, the latter requested by the Editorial Board.

*Medicentro Electrónica* only accepts manuscripts that have not been previously published, nor are they being evaluated for publication in another journal, this implies a great responsibility on the part of the authors. The selection of the material proposed for publication is based on the degree of interest for the majority of the professionals, the scientific soundness, originality, timeliness and timeliness of the information, the seriousness in the treatment of the subject, its writing and compliance with the regulations of medical ethics.

**Costs and publication system**
The submission of manuscripts to *Medicentro Electrónica* and their publication in open access (Open Journal Systems) is totally free for the authors.

**Authorship**
In accordance with the Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing, and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals, published by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors ([www.icmje.org](http://www.icmje.org)), an "Author" is one who meets the following conditions:

1. Substantial contributions to the conception or design of the research/scientific work; or the acquisition, analysis and interpretation of data.

2. Write/make the final report or critically review its content (help).

3. Approval of the final version of the report that will be published.

4. Be responsible for all aspects of the work to ensure that questions regarding the accuracy or completeness of any part of the work are properly investigated and resolved.

**Contribution of the authors**
Authors must detail their contribution to the submitted work according to the CRediT taxonomy.
Digital identifier (ORCID)
The Open Researcher and Contributor ID (ORCID) is a unique identifier, made up of 16 digits, which aims to provide researchers with an unequivocal author code that clearly distinguishes their scientific production and avoids related confusion with scientific authorship and the existence of coinciding or similar names; therefore, its use has become a requirement for scientific publications and communications.

ORCID also provides a place to register jobs and other data, which can be shared and linked with other identification systems such as (ResearcherID, ScopusID, Publons, among others). If your ORCID has not yet been created, you can do so at the following link: https://orcid.org/.

Privacy statement
The names, email addresses and other data provided to Medicentro Electrónica will be used exclusively for the purposes established therein, and will not be provided to third parties. Only those corresponding to the author responsible for the correspondence will be public, in each article.

Ethics
General considerations
The signing authors of the articles accept the responsibility defined by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (www.icmje.org).

Papers sent to Medicentro Electrónica must have been prepared in compliance with international recommendations on clinical research with people and laboratory animals (Helsinki Declaration of the World Medical Association).

The opinions expressed by the authors are their sole responsibility and do not necessarily reflect the criteria or the policy of the Editorial Board.

The mention of trade names, manufacturers or distributors of equipment or supplies does not imply that the journal approves, recommends or uses them.

Recommendations of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) are followed for the treatment of ethical problems.

Conflict of interests
Medicentro Electrónica requires all authors and reviewers to report any type of "Conflicts of interest" (financial, personal, political or academic) that may influence their approaches or their evaluation in relation to the work.

Plagiarism
All the articles received by Medicentro Electrónica are verified by the editors before and during the publication process, using the Strike Plagiarism tool (https://panel.strikeplagiarism.com) acquired by the National Health System with the PAHO support for the detection of coincidences and possible plagiarism within scientific documents.
(scientific articles), but also theses, master's and doctoral degrees, as well as reports or other types of material linked to the development of science. It is a very powerful tool, and its use is simple and only requires submitting the document to the site in question and obtaining the results from the processing done by the site itself, going through various databases and science repositories to detect matches.

If a previous version of an article has been previously published, this must be expressly indicated in the notes. The new version must have substantial novelties and its recovery must be motivated. The journal will reject articles that are plagiarism, informing the authors and their institutions; as well as establishing regulations for authors about publishing in the journal.

The reviewers and members of the Editorial Board can also detect the occurrence of this bad practice. If fraud is found during the review process, the authors will be notified of the rejection of the article and if it is already published, it will be withdrawn immediately.

Readers are requested to inform the editorial of the journal, in case of detection of plagiarism, through our emails (medicentro@infomed.sld.cu, vicente@infomed.sld.cu) the title of the article, name (s) of the author(s), volume, issue and year of publication.

Medicentro Electrónica does not encourage any form of plagiarism. Therefore, we recommend reviewing the content of your article before submitting it, as well as careful use of citations and bibliographical references.

We suggest authors to consult Miguel Roig's Guide in English or Spanish, taken from his article: Avoiding plagiarism, Self-plagiarism, and Other Questionable Writing Practices: A Guide to Ethical Writing. (Evitar el plagio, el autoplagio, y otras prácticas de escritura cuestionables: Una guía para la escritura ética).

Fabrication/Falsification of data
Falsification is omitting or altering data, materials, or research processes so that their results are not accurately reflected, and fabrication is the way to fabricate data or results. These reprehensible conducts are fraudulent, seriously alter the integrity of the research, and can negatively influence clinical practice.

Therefore, manuscripts must be prepared based on original and reliable data. The use of falsified or fabricated data is totally prohibited. In case of suspected fraud, the journal has the right to request the raw data, even after the publication of the article, and will follow the recommendations of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE).

Image manipulation
Medicentro Electrónica requires authors to send original images, because all of the accepted manuscripts will be exhaustively verified. You cannot enhance, hide, move, delete or introduce any specific features within an image. Adjustments to brightness, contrast, or color balance are acceptable, as long as they apply to the entire image and do not misrepresent any information.

Informed consent
All patients and research participants must be informed about the objectives of the study and the possible side effects of drugs or interventions; for this reason, the signed, written informed
consent of all participants or their legal guardians is necessary. This action is part of the investigation and must be declared by the authors. Likewise, any image or information related to the patients or participants must be published, even if it does not necessarily imply their identification. The journal reserves the right to request the signed documents, if deemed appropriate.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS
All manuscripts necessarily have to comply with the publication standards (see Table), otherwise they may be rejected without being reviewed by experts. Although a maximum number of words is established for each type of article, we will be flexible with the length of the papers depending on their quality and scientific impact. The format must be the following:
• Font: arial 12 picas.
• Line spacing: a space and a half.
• Pagination: it is not essential. If used, the pages should be numbered consecutively, at the bottom right, with no number appearing on the front page.
• Each one of the sections of the manuscript must be properly headed, but page breaks must not be used, nor separate pages except for tables. Compressed files in any format are not supported.
The submitted document must have clarity and coherence in wording, syntax and spelling. The meaning of the abbreviations, initials and symbols used will be described. The use of these should not be excessive, as it prevents fluent reading and understanding of the work. Our instructions are based on the recommendations contained in the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (Vancouver Style) uniform requirements for preparing manuscripts sent to biomedical journals. If you want to access, click here.

The scientific journal Medicentro Electrónica will publish and close its issues on a quarterly basis (January-March, April-June, July-September and October-December). Their issues begin on the first day of the start month, and end on the last day of the end month of the period. The journal also follows a continuous publication model. Authors are to provide the primary records used for the data if requested by the editors. Statement that each of the persons mentioned in the THANK YOU section authorizes being mentioned.

Front page
Must contain:
• Title in Spanish, without initials or abbreviations; if names of institutions are used, they must be official and up-to-date. (up to 15 words).
• Authors: the full names and surnames of all the authors must appear, with their ORCID record, and the institution to which they belong, country and email.
Eg: Olga Lidia Veliz Concepción¹ https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6142-3299
Sandí Jiménez Puñales² https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4535-9562
1- Villa Clara University of Medical Sciences. Cuba. email: olgalidiavc@infomed.sld.cu
2- "Mariana Grajales" Gynecological and Obstetrics University Hospital. Santa Clara, Villa Clara. Cuba. email: sandijp@infomed.sld.cu
• Article types (Original, Review, Special, Letter to the Editor, Editorial, Communication, Case Report).
• Declaration of conflicts of interest.
• Declaration of the originality of the work.
Eg: This manuscript is an original and unpublished work, it has not been totally or partially published, nor is it being evaluated by another journal or any other means of dissemination.

- Contribution of the authors (Original articles).
- All articles will be accompanied by a letter of responsibility that will enter the system as a complementary file. If it is not uploaded together with the article, the Editorial Board will reject it until the authors send it. In the specific case of all articles published by the "Cmte. Manuel Fajardo Rivero" Clinical and Surgical University Hospital must also have the endorsement of their Scientific Council.

**Table. Summary of the general standards that manuscripts sent to Medicentro Electrónica must comply with.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of article</th>
<th>Characteristics of the articles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Title (words)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Original Article</td>
<td>up to 15 words</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review Article</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Article</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case Report</td>
<td>3 (in case of others, they must be very justified)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letter to the Editor</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Editorial</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Not counting the front page, abstract, tables, figure captions, and supplementary material.

**Main document**

It is all the text or "body" of the manuscript that does not include the first page, the figures or the supplementary material. This main document should not contain any identifying information of the authors.

**Abstract**

For original and review articles, the abstract must be structured, with a maximum length of 250 words, and the headings: a) Introduction, b) Objectives, c) Methods, d) Results and e) Conclusions.
In the case of review articles, they must be structured as: a) Introduction, b) Objectives, c) Method and d) Conclusions.

Letters to the editor and editorials do not require an abstract.

In the rest of the manuscripts they will have an abstract, unstructured, with up to 150 words. In no case should bibliographic citations or abbreviations appear.

It is written in the past tense.

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In the rest of the manuscripts they will have an abstract, unstructured, with up to 150 words. In no case should bibliographic citations or abbreviations appear.

It is written in the past tense.

**Keywords**

Three to six key words or phrases are included, preferably derived from the Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) of the National Library of Medicine. Available at: www.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/meshhome.html.

**Abbreviations**

Avoid improper use of abbreviations. The ones you use must be widely used and when they appear for the first time in the text they will be preceded by the full term.

Up to 8 are accepted in the entire document, a greater number must be fully justified.

**Bibliographic references**

Bibliographic references should follow the Recommendations for the preparation, editing and publication of academic articles in medical journals, of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) of the National Library of Medicine, available at:

www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/uniform_requirements.html,

They are cited consecutively, in Arabic numerals, in superscript and bold format, according to their order of appearance in the text.

Only published bibliographies will be included, articles approved for publication (in press) are not accepted –except when they have an identifier (DOI) or can be reviewed online–. Most of the bibliographical references must be recent.

Mention of personal communications and unpublished documents should be avoided; they will only be mentioned in the text between parentheses, if necessary.

The bibliography will be sent as normal text, without using codes from bibliographic management programs (EndNote, Zotero, among others).

For the reference to medical journals, the same abbreviations are used that appear in the Index Medicus: List of Journals Indexed, available at: https://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/libprog.html.

Only the URLs (Uniform Resource Locator) of citations that are not from sources (books or magazines) already printed should be included.
All the authors of the quoted text will be listed; if it has 7 or more authors, the first 6 will be mentioned, followed by "et al." Any element will not be highlighted with the use of capital letters or underlining. The ordering of the bibliographic elements and the use of the punctuation marks prescribed by the Vancouver style will be observed.

Here are examples of some of the main cases:

JOURNALS
1. Author/s. Article title. International abbreviation of the journal year; volume (issue): initial-end page of the article.


JOURNALS IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT
2. Author. Qualification. Abbreviated name of the journal [type of support] year [date of access]; volume (issue): pages or extension indicator. Available in:


INTERNET ARTICLE WITHOUT AUTHORS

BOOKS
4. Author/s. Title of the book. Edition. Place of publication: Publisher; Year.

The first edition does not need to be consigned. The edition is always put in Arabic numerals and abbreviation: 2aed. 2nd ed. If the work consists of more than one volume, we must cite it after the title of the book Vol. 3.

CHAPTER OF THE BOOK


INTERNET MONOGRAPH
6. Author/s. Title [Internet]. Name of the site; year [date cited]. Available at: URL.
Tables
They must be created in Web Table 1 or Grid 1 format, with all borders. They will be classified with Arabic numerals, according to their order of appearance in the text. Each table will be written double-spaced on a separate sheet and will be included in the Results, or at the end, before the bibliographical references. Those that contain little data can be commented on in the text instead of appearing as tables.

They include a title or heading at the top and the abbreviations used in alphabetical order and symbols are described at the bottom. The content is self-explanatory and the data it includes should not be repeated in the figures.

Tables in image format are not accepted.

Figures
Includes charts, drawings, photos, and images obtained directly from diagnostic imaging equipment. They must be unpublished, otherwise they must have the corresponding reproduction permission and clearly expose the original source.

They will be sent in digital format (JPEG), with a resolution sufficient to guarantee print quality (not less than 300 dpi), and are not included in the main document, but in separate files as "supplementary files" through the system on-line management of manuscripts (OJS).

Special details are marked with arrows, asterisks, and arrowheads, using maximum contrast to the figure.

Figure captions must be clear and explanatory. No data should appear in the figures that would reveal the identity of the patient. The photographs of people must be taken in such a way that they are not identifiable or, otherwise, they must be accompanied by the consent of their use by the person photographed (see Informed consent section).

Supplementary material
The supplementary material will be published only online. The images and tables must meet the established requirements that are shown in the corresponding sections; and the audios or videos must be:
  a) Referring, logically, to key aspects of the article or research,
  b) Anonymous (do not include any identifying data),
  c) Light “weight”: < 5 Mb,
  d) Duration < 2 minutes. If they were longer, they must be divided into two or more short sequences,
  e) In formats normally playable by computers, tablets and mobile phones (Audio Video Interleave [.avi], Moving Picture Experts Group [.mpeg, .mpg] and MPEG Audio Layer III [.mp3], preferably),
  f) A brief description of each audio or video sequence will be included after the figure captions,
  g) They will only be included in the publication by decision of the Editor-in-Chief.

Original Article
Its length will not exceed 4,500 words, without including bibliographical references. Each article must be accompanied by a letter expressing the contribution of each author to the study.
Example:

María Capote Pérez: performed statistical processing.

José Cabrera González: selected the study sample.

Iván López Díaz: developed the measurement instrument.

Presentation order: 1) Front page, 2) Abstract and keywords, 3) Introduction, 4) Methods, 5) Results, 6) Discussion, 7) Conclusions (may or may not appear), 8) Bibliographic references. Acknowledgments, if any, appear after the conclusions.

Introduction

The background of the problem is briefly discussed. At the end of the introduction, the objectives are included in paragraph form.

Method

It must be explicit enough to clarify the type of study, period, place, sample selection, variables used, and statistical processing, as well as the inclusion, exclusion, and elimination criteria.

Results

The results obtained are mentioned. Appropriate use of statisticians (when required). The figures and tables highlight the relevant results, without incurring in repetition of information between them.

Discussion

Carry out a critical analysis of the results of the study in light of the works published by other researchers in the national and international area. Explain the scope and limitations of the results achieved. Describe the possible applicability and generalizability of the results.

Conclusions

They briefly express the conclusions of the investigation and are written in the form of a paragraph. They respond to the objectives of the study and are in correspondence with the results and the discussion. (They are not mandatory, although it would be appreciated if they were briefly described).

The sum of tables and figures must not exceed 5. The titles must adequately correspond to their content.

Bibliographic References (See table)

The necessary and well delimited. It must contain 80% of works published in the last five years. Relevant national and international literature on the subject will be represented.
Review Article
Its length will not exceed 5,000 words, without including bibliographical references.

It will not exceed 3 authors.


Abstract
Structured by sections, in this case it must comply with the following structure: Introduction-Objective(s)-Methods-Conclusions. It has a maximum limit of 250 words.

Introduction
Present brief, clear and appropriate background with its bibliographical foundation. It must be a topic of importance and relevance to science. Justify the scientific problem that originates the review. At the end of the introduction, the objectives are included in paragraph form.

Methods
Criteria and justification for the selection of the sources consulted. Search engines used. Period taken for review.

Development
Exposure according to the objectives of the work. Figures and tables that highlight relevant aspects without repeating information (See table). Interpretation of the results indicated in the consulted literature. Contrast the differences and coincidences of the analyzed studies. Critique the results of the study in light of the works published by other researchers. Describe the possible applicability and generalizability of the results. Include new aspects to consider (if necessary). Point out or highlight the limitations or contributions of the review.

Conclusions
They respond to the objectives of the study. Present clear, concrete and pertinent conclusions always in paragraph form.

Bibliographic references
The necessary and well delimited. It must contain 70% of works published in the last five years. Relevant national and international literature on the subject will be represented.

Communication
They will be short works, with no more than 3500 words, without including bibliographical references. They must have an unstructured abstract, with a maximum of 150 words. Topics of interest on a particular scientific topic will be exposed in them in a synthetic and didactic way, with innovative aspects that reflect the author's point of view. Likewise, results of investigations may be communicated. It will not exceed 10 bibliographic citations, with 80% updating. Only three authors will be admitted.
**Letter to the Editor**  
Documents that express the ideas, positions or disagreements of the authors will be received, in relation to some of the contents published in the journal or topics specific to the specialty, after evaluation by the Editorial Board. Letters that comply with the ethical principles of scientific publication will be published. The raised foundations must have their corresponding bibliographic support, according to the norms adopted by the journal.

Its length will not exceed 2500 words, without including bibliographical references, which will not exceed 10, with 80% updating.

**Editorial**  
They are requested by order of the Editorial Board of the journal.

**Case Report**  
Order of presentation: 1) Front page, 2) Abstract and keywords, 3) Introduction, 4) Presentation of the patient, 5) Comments, 6) Bibliographical references.

They are reports on patients, techniques or some other novel information that the author must present for publication.

Its length will not exceed 3,000 words, without including bibliographical references.

Up to 10 bibliographical references, with 80% updating.

Its structure includes a short abstract, which expresses the essential idea of the case to be presented (See table).

**Introduction**  
A report on the disease is made.

**Patient presentation**  
The antecedents, reasons for attending the consultation or the emergency room, complementary procedures carried out and its evolution are exposed.

It must be supported by no more than five photos, with the quality required for electronic publication, with their respective figure captions; they must appear delimited in the text, according to the order of presentation.

The symbols, arrows or letters used in these must clearly contrast with the background, and must be edited in any image editor (paint, photoshop, among others). See general instructions.

**Comments**  
His/Her assessment of the patient is made and his/her experience is compared with that reported by other authors.
Only three authors will be admitted. If another author appears, his/her participation will be duly justified.

Special Article

Your abstract will be unstructured with up to 150 words, and structured as the authors create.

They are requested by order of the Editorial Board of the journal and should not exceed 4000 words, without including bibliographical references, which will have an 80% update.

In the event that images, graphs or tables appear, no more than 5 should appear, with a well-clarified footer and always in an editable format.

The development must present the characteristics of the original articles but written in this single section, without subtitles but in a logical order. It will also include experience articles, essays, systematizations, clinical practice guides and others, provided they are medical-scientific thematic.

SENDING THE MANUSCRIPT
Medicentro Electrónica has an online manuscript management system (OJS, Open Journal Systems), for which it is necessary to be registered as "Author". To do this, you must access the journal's website: http://medicentro.sld.cu/, and once you have obtained your username and password you can start sending your manuscript.

To guarantee that the peer review is "blind", the manuscripts must necessarily be sent in two or more independent files: 1) main document (text or "body" of the manuscript), 2) front page and 3) figures or other supplementary material (if applicable).

Open Journal Systems
Initially, the section of the journal to which the manuscript is to be sent is selected, that is, the type of article, then the main document is loaded and then the metadata (authors, title, abstract and bibliography). This is where the ORCID is entered, which usually generates an error message and prevents further loading of the data, resulting in frustration for the author, who gives up, not realizing that the format accepted by OJS does not include the "s" of the https; deleting it will be enough to continue entering the data into the system.

Subsequently, as many supplementary files as necessary are loaded. This is where the front page, figures, videos, and any other supplementary material the authors deem appropriate should be included; and finally, the shipment is finished.

ARTICLE PROCESSING
Reception
Once the article is received, the author responsible for the correspondence will receive the notification of receipt of the manuscript, with his/her identification number, which he/she must use from that moment on. It is then submitted to a review process that begins with the scientific editor, who sends it to one of the section editors, and these, in turn, send it to the referees that the journal has declared; which will use the evaluation guide established for each type of article, available on our platform. Subsequently, these specialists issue a diagnosis
according to the following categories: publishable without markings, accepted with major fixes, accepted with minor fixes, or rejected. The Editorial Board will carry out the first review within 30 days to determine if the manuscript complies with the Publication Guidelines and the editorial process can continue.

Peer-review
Subsequently, the manuscript is delivered to at least two experts who, without knowing the data of the authors ("blind" peer review), will have 30 days to determine if the manuscript is accepted, rejected or if it needs modifications to be, therefore re-evaluated.
Your comments will be sent to the Editorial Board where the conduct to follow will be decided.

Editorial decision
If a manuscript needs modifications, the observations and suggestions of the Editorial Board and the experts will be sent to the responsible author, who must respond within a period of no more than 30 calendar days. If you do not respond within this period, the manuscript will be automatically rejected and archived.
Once the final editorial decision has been made, approximately 6-8 weeks after the submission date, Medicentro Electrónica will inform the authors of the result.
It is important to note that when a member of the Editorial Board submits a manuscript to the journal, it will be considered like any other author, so it will also be subjected to a rigorous peer review and it will be guaranteed that the evaluation process is completely blind until a final decision has been made.
The Editorial Board and the editorial staff of the journal reserve the right to reject articles that they deem inappropriate for publication.
If for any reason the author does not wish to publish his/her article, he must notify the journal management in writing, in order to avoid an ethical conflict.

OPEN SCIENCE
Medicentro Electrónica adheres to the principles of Open Science and promotes:
- Open peer review
- Post-acceptance review of the article (post-review)
- Publication of the research databases, or what is the same, opens the research data, so that the authors place and reference the data used in their research in such a way that they can be shared and reused, which favors the transparency and credibility of science. In addition, and in correspondence with the type of article, it must be accompanied by the analyzed database (upload as complementary material), in a modifiable format (for Excel (.xlsx or .xls) or SPSS (.sav) for example).

CONTINUING PUBLICATION AND PREPRINTS
The scientific journal Medicentro Electrónica will publish and close its issues on a quarterly basis (January-March, April-June, July-September and October-December). Their issues begin on the first day of the start month, and end on the last day of the end month of the period. The journal follows a continuous publication model. In the same way, the anticipated publication appears, with articles that have already been processed but have not yet been incorporated into an issue.
It only accepts documents previously published in recognized preprint servers (SciELO Preprints, PubMed Central, Medxiv, ArXiv, bioRxiv, Plos and others considered by the Editorial Board). Authors must mention in their submission the availability of the document
on any of these servers and its exact location, as well they must be updated at the end of the review process and layout tests.

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