Instructions for Preparing Residents’ Clinic Mancripts

Read the following instructions for preparing Residents’ Clinic manuscripts. Residents’ Clinic submissions are limited to Mayo Clinic Internal Medicine Residents.

Manuscripts must be pre-approved prior to online submission by either Drs. Thomas Beckman or Christopher Wittich. Your manuscript will not be considered for peer review until it has been placed in the proper format as outlined below.

Manuscript Preparation

1. Limit text to ≤3,000 words, including references.
2. The title must include the patient’s age and gender, followed by one or more of his or her presenting symptoms (example: “58-Year-Old Man With Fever and Right Eye Pain”)
3. The initial paragraphs should briefly introduce the patient’s presenting complaints, history and physical findings.
4. Multiple Choice Questions:
   • Multiple Choice Questions are the backbone of Resident Clinic articles and should be created before you begin writing the article.
   • Questions should pertain to specific aspects of the medical evaluation and emphasize basic issues that would be useful to generalists. Avoid questions that concentrate on esoteric principles, such as cellular physiology.
   • Avoid factoid questions. A factoid question is one that can be answered without knowing the case or previous evaluation, and that could be answered simply based on whether the reader happens to have certain medical knowledge (ie, What is the most appropriate treatment for strep pharyngitis?). A better way to ask the question would be: “What is the most appropriate treatment for this patient’s condition?”
   • Select five questions, each followed by five possible responses.
   • Questions are presented in a logical order, usually in the following sequence: initial differential diagnosis, testing and laboratory studies, final diagnosis, treatment, natural history, prognosis.
   • Questions should solicit a single best answer. Avoid “all of the following except,” “all of the above,” and “none of the above.”
   • Vary which option is correct, so that the majority of answers don’t correspond to the same letter (a, b, c, d, or e).
   • Following each question, explain each answer in the exact order as it was listed in the question. The explanation should briefly clarify, in a sentence or two, why each answer is correct or incorrect. Avoid long discussion here, save for Discussion section.
   • At the end of the text following each question, you must link back to the current patient, with at least one sentence, before proceeding to the next question.
5. The Discussion section should briefly summarize key points of the medical diagnosis or provide a learning point related to the case.
6. Cite no more than 12 references.
7. Do not include images, tables, or figures.

Additional Information

8. Involve your faculty co-author before you begin writing. Faculty co-authors should edit your manuscript for accuracy before you submit it to the Mayo Clinic Proceedings. However, you are responsible for proper formatting; if the manuscript is not written exactly as described above then it will not be sent for peer review, and will be returned to you for correction.
9. Each manuscript may have no more than two resident physicians, only one faculty co-author, and all authors must qualify for authorship (see submission guidelines below).
10. Each resident may be first author on only one Resident Clinic article during residency training. However, in special instances, residents may co-author a second Resident Clinic article with advance approval from Drs. Thomas Beckman or Christopher Wittich.
11. Note that the intent of the Resident Clinic articles is for readers to think through a case. The important aspect of Resident Clinic articles is the thought process, not describing rare cases. Therefore, rare diagnoses should be submitted as Case Reports, not Resident Clinics.
12. Go to the Mayo Clinic Proceedings website and read previous Resident Clinic articles to get an additional sense for how they should be written. http://mayoclinicproceedings.org/content/residents