

Notes for Contributors

Independent Nurse, published by Mark Allen Publishing, is a magazine for nurses who work in primary care and the community. Contributors should assume an appropriate baseline level of knowledge among readers. When writing, adopt a clear, direct style and where appropriate leave the reader with clear 'take-home messages' to influence practice.

Preparing your article for the clinical features section

- **First page** – the first page of the article should give the title of the article, with the name, qualifications, job title and place of work of the author(s) as you wish them to appear in the magazine.
- **Technical terms** – drugs should be referred to by their approved, non-proprietary names, while proprietary names should be given in brackets; scientific measurements should be given in SI units, except for blood pressure, which should be expressed in mmHg; numbers below 10 are spelled out, except for measurements used with a unit.
- **Boxes / tables** – we encourage the use of boxes and tables as they enhance the appearance of articles and help the reader retain information presented. Place boxes and tables at the end of the main text and mention them in the body of the text to indicate where they should appear, eg (see Box 2).
- **References** – please use amended Vancouver style (see below) and keep references to a minimum – no more than three per 500 words of requested text. (Do not count references as part of the total number of words requested.)
- References should be numbered in the order in which they appear in the text and listed in full at the end of the article (not as footnotes). Details for each reference should follow the Vancouver style. [See: www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/uniform_requirements.html for more on how to style references]
- Please give names and initials of the first three authors followed by et al (unless there are two authors, when both names should be given).
- The authors' names are followed by: article title; journal title abbreviated according to PubMed (see: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed>) year of publication; volume number; first and last page numbers.
- References to books should give the names of any editors, place of publication, editor, and year.

Reference examples:

1. Linne Y, et al. Long-term weight development after pregnancy. *Obesity Rev* 2002;3:75-83.
2. Buttriss J, et al. *Nutrition: a handbook for community nurses*. London: Whurr, 2001.
3. Plant M, et al. Alcohol and pregnancy. In: Macdonald I, editor. *Health issues related to alcohol consumption*. Oxford: Blackwell Science, 1999.

- Information from manuscripts not yet in press, papers reported at meetings, or personal communications should be cited only in the text, not as a formal reference.
- Authors should obtain permission from the source to cite personal communications.

Preparing your article for the professional features section

- The professional section covers topical issues affecting nurses' working lives, as well as case studies of unusual nurse-led initiatives and innovative schemes involving primary care or community nurses.
 - Contributions should be written in an accessible style, offering practical tips for colleagues where appropriate, rather than in a theoretical or academic style.
 - If you have an idea for an article, would like to suggest an initiative to be featured, or you would like to be profiled in the magazine please contact Mike Shallcross for further guidelines, at mike.shallcross@markallengroup.com.
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Submitting your article

Please submit the completed article as a file attachment by email to:

- in@markallengroup.com
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Please note

- Articles should be no more than 1200 words, plus 2 x 150 word boxes (1500 total).
- Images can be supplied with the article.
- *Independent Nurse* does not guarantee publication for any article unseen and reserves the right to edit articles as necessary.
- Articles should be submitted exclusively to *Independent Nurse*.
- In the event the article is published, you will be required to sign a copyright agreement with Mark Allen Group.
- A complimentary copy of the magazine will be sent to each listed author on publication.