

Section 1: Publishing Style

Contents

Introduction.....	1-1
Requirements for Document Production and Publication	1-1
Clearance.....	1-1
Printing and Duplication	1-1
Coordination With the AHRQ Web Site	1-2
Use of AHRQ Branding Design and Logos.....	1-2
Proprietary Software	1-2
Disclaimers and Disclosures	1-2
Disclaimers	1-2
General Disclaimer	1-3
Disclaimer for Multimedia Products.....	1-3
Disclaimer of Conflicts of Interest.....	1-3
Disclosures	1-3
Funding Statement	1-3
Public Domain Notice.....	1-4
Statement on Accessibility.....	1-4
Copyright, Licensing Agreements, Trademarks, and Related Intellectual Property Requirements.....	1-5
Statutory Basis of Copyright.....	1-5
International Copyright.....	1-5
Signing Copyright Forms—Duties	
of Federal Employees	1-5
Reprinting Copyrighted Materials	1-5
Fair Use.....	1-5
Excerpting Content	1-6
Tables, Graphs, and Figures.....	1-6
Photographs.....	1-6
Digital and Electronic Content.....	1-6
Reprinting From the Internet	1-7
Copyright of Grantees’ Work	1-7
Licensing Agreements	1-7
Copyright Notices	1-7
Documenting and Filing Permissions	1-8
Trademarks and Trade Names	1-8
Additional Information	1-9

Authorship and Credit.....	1-9
Listing Authors With Their Affiliations	1-9
Listing Credentials After an Author's Name	1-9
Acknowledgments.....	1-9
Editorial Style, Usage, and Punctuation	1-10
Resources	1-10
Style Manuals.....	1-10
Dictionaries	1-10
Quick Tips on Usage and Style.....	1-10
General Usage and Stylistic Considerations	1-10
Statistical Usage.....	1-11
Medical Usage	1-11
Titles of Reports.....	1-12
General Punctuation.....	1-12
Bulleted Lists	1-12
Hyphens	1-13
Hyphenated Prefixes	1-14
Compound Words	1-14
Acronyms	1-14
Abbreviations	1-15
Numerals	1-16
Capitalization	1-16
Citations, Reference List, Footnotes, and Bibliography	1-17
Citation Style	1-17
Rules for Citing Sources	1-17
Citation Management Software	1-18
Citing Journals	1-18
Citing Database Reviews and Other Public Health Publications.....	1-19
Citing Books	1-20
Citing a Chapter in a Book or an Article in a Compendium.....	1-20
Citing Scientific and Technical Reports From Government Agencies	1-21
Citing Grant or Contract Reports	1-22
Citing Dissertations and Theses.....	1-23
Citing Conference Proceedings.....	1-23
Citing a Publication With No Listed Author	1-24
Citing Nonprint Data, Including Web Citations	1-24
Footnotes.....	1-25
Bibliographies	1-25
Type Specifications for Print or Web Manuscripts.....	1-26
Front Matter	1-26

Report Body	1-26
Headings	1-26
Tables and Figures	1-27
Back Matter.....	1-27
Type Specifications for Desktop-Published Products.....	1-28
Samples for Print or Web Documents	1-28
Sample Headings	1-28
Inside Front Cover for a Final Report.....	1-30
Title Page for a Final Report.....	1-31
Back of Title Page.....	1-32
Acknowledgments.....	1-33
Contents	1-34
Submission of Documents to AHRQ.....	1-35
General Procedures	1-35
Procedure for Reports Submitted as Final Copy.....	1-36
Procedure for Reports Submitted as Final Manuscript or Peer Review Copy	1-36
Procedures for Print-Ready Products Submitted for Offset Printing.....	1-36
Procedures for DVD or CD Products.....	1-36
The Editorial and Production Processes at AHRQ	1-37
Objectives of the Editorial Process	1-37
Levels of Edit.....	1-37
Checklist of Standard Editorial Procedures	1-38
Production Editing Checklist	1-38
Copyediting Checklist.....	1-40
Substantive Editing Checklist.....	1-41
The Publications Process	1-42
Additional Information	1-45
Appendixes	
Appendix 1-A. Copyright: Permission Forms and Licensing Agreement	
Appendix 1-B. Trademarks	
Appendix 1-C. AHRQ Grant Final Progress Reports	

Introduction

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) has developed these publishing specifications to give contractors and grantees basic guidance and a format to follow for preparing reports and other products submitted to the Agency for publication (e.g., conference summaries, scientific and technical reports, fliers, booklets, and multimedia products and tools).

This section includes guidance on such matters as clearance, printing and duplication, and posting on the AHRQ Web site. It also provides guidance on legal requirements such as disclaimers, copyright permissions, and the use of trademarks and trade names. It provides a set of tips on editorial style and a description of the editorial process that occurs once a document is received at AHRQ's Office of Communications and Knowledge Transfer (OCKT).

This section provides instructions for most reports and includes general, not exhaustive, specifications for other documents. AHRQ programs may have developed detailed style guidance tailored to their particular needs. Please contact your OCKT managing editor for additional guidance pertaining to your program and products.

Requirements for Document Production and Publication

Clearance

All publications require a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) clearance at concept stage (615 clearance). The review is designed to ensure that the material for publication is in line with Federal Government and departmental priorities and policy.

Some publications must also be submitted to HHS for final content or policy approval.

All products are assigned an OCKT managing editor who will work with you and your project staff to develop clearance paperwork. The OCKT managing editor is responsible for submitting the 615 clearance for approval.

Printing and Duplication

Contractors are not permitted to obtain printing services on behalf of the Federal Government. The OCKT editor manages printing through the Government Printing Office.

With OCKT approval, contractors are allowed to make a limited number of copies of AHRQ documents. Quantities are not to exceed 25,000 impressions (i.e., the total number of pages; for example, five copies of a 100-page document equals 500 impressions). An OCKT managing editor must review the document before it is copied and will assign a publication number for the document.

Specifications for delivering art files to OCKT for printing are detailed on page 1-36.

Coordination With the AHRQ Web Site

All print products that AHRQ publishes are posted on the Agency's Web site and often include associated Web-based tools and products. Many products are Web-only; these must adhere to the same requirements that apply to printed products. It is critical that you review Section 2 of these guidelines to understand AHRQ's Web policies.

The OCKT managing editor will coordinate coding, loading, and posting of Web documents through AHRQ's Web team, and with AHRQ's program team for third-level domain Web sites.

Use of AHRQ Branding Design and Logos

AHRQ branding design elements must be included on all AHRQ products and communication materials, whether produced in-house or by a contractor. An OCKT managing editor can answer any questions on use of the AHRQ logo and branding design.

- Samples of AHRQ design elements/logos are provided in Section 7 of these guidelines.
- **Grantees** may **not** include HHS or AHRQ logos on their products.
- Products prepared under **contract** to AHRQ must include the HHS/AHRQ logos and may **not** contain contractor logos. Acknowledgment of the contractor's role is usually given in the front matter.
- The HHS/AHRQ logo is only to be used on official, AHRQ-sponsored products.

Proprietary Software

Files should not be prepared in a manner that requires users to purchase a specific software program to access the information.

Disclaimers and Disclosures

Disclaimers

A disclaimer is used for reports developed under a contract or grant, to indicate the limitations of AHRQ's responsibility for the content of the report, and any necessary cautions about its intended use. The disclaimer may be adapted to suit the needs of the individual project. It should be placed on the inside front cover of printed reports, and on the page following the title page of Web-only documents.

Examples of disclaimers for reports produced for AHRQ under contract are shown on the following pages.

General Disclaimer

A general disclaimer follows:

The findings and conclusions in this document are those of the author(s), who are responsible for its content, and do not necessarily represent the views of AHRQ. No statement in this report should be construed as an official position of AHRQ or of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Disclaimer for Multimedia Products

The following is a sample disclaimer for multimedia products (e.g., DVDs and CDs) developed under contracts or grants and disseminated by AHRQ:

The **(name of organization)** and AHRQ have made a good faith effort to take all reasonable measures to ensure that this product is accurate, up to date, and free of error in accord with clinical standards accepted at the time of publication. Any practice described in this product must be applied by health care practitioners in accordance with professional judgment and standards of care in regard to the unique circumstances that may apply in each situation they encounter. The **(name of organization)** and AHRQ are not responsible for any adverse consequences arising from independent application by individual professionals of the content of this product to particular patient circumstances encountered in their practices.

Disclaimer of Conflicts of Interest

The following disclaimer may be used to show that there are no affiliations or financial involvements that conflict with the material presented in a report.

None of the investigators has any affiliations or financial involvement that conflicts with the material presented in this report.

Disclosures

Funding Statement

For materials developed under an AHRQ contract that may or may not be published (final reports and contract deliverables) and for grantee journal articles, a funding statement is required:

This project was funded under contract/grant number XXXX from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The opinions expressed in this document are those of the authors and do not reflect the official position of AHRQ or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Public Domain Notice

This notice tells the reader whether the material is copyrighted or in the public domain. It should appear immediately following the disclaimer, either on the inside front cover (for printed reports) or on the page following the title page (for Web-only documents).

When a publication is entirely in the public domain, use the following notice:

This document is in the public domain and may be used and reprinted without special permission. Citation of the source is appreciated.

When the entire publication is in the public domain, except for short copyrighted quoted passages that require permission to reproduce, use the following notice:

This document is in the public domain and may be used and reprinted without permission except those copyrighted materials that are clearly noted in the document. Further reproduction of those copyrighted materials is prohibited without the specific permission of copyright holders.

When the entire document is copyrighted—as in special pre-approved situations where AHRQ grants a contractor permission to retain copyright to a product—use the copyright notice on page 1–8.

Use a simpler public domain statement on fliers or pamphlets. For example:

This material may be reprinted without further permission.

Statement on Accessibility

Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 requires Federal agencies to make all electronic and information technology accessible to persons with disabilities. If your document contains figures or complex tables, they must be readable by assistive devices for the visually disabled, or else provide a text description of their content.

If the managing editor decides that meeting these requirements would entail an undue burden in a particular situation, you will be asked to add this disclaimer statement to your report, usually on the page following the title page:

Persons using assistive technology may not be able to fully access information in this report. For assistance contact AHRQ at info@ahrq.gov [or other appropriate contact designated by the managing editor].

For further information on accessibility, see Appendix 2-C.

Copyright, Licensing Agreements, Trademarks, and Related Intellectual Property Requirements

This subsection outlines the key copyright principles that AHRQ staff, grantees, and contractors need to understand as they develop print and Web-based documents. It provides links to sites that provide authoritative information on these issues. Sample forms for obtaining permissions and implementing licensing agreements are provided in Appendix 1-A.

Statutory Basis of Copyright

U.S. Code, Title 17 – Copyrights. The statute states that articles, books, photographs, and other copyrightable materials (such as software) belong to the authors upon creation or to the persons or institutions to which they have assigned the copyright.

International Copyright

Copyright protection in a particular country depends on the laws of that country. However, most countries offer copyright protection to foreign works according to international copyright treaties and conventions. If you are seeking foreign protection for a product, consult *International Copyright Relations of the United States*, a publication of the U.S. Copyright Office, which lists the major bilateral and multinational agreements and countries that are parties to specific agreements. (Circular 38A; www.copyright.gov/circs/circ38a.pdf. Accessed October 17, 2011.)

Signing Copyright Forms—Duties of Federal Employees

Employees of the Federal Government who submit articles to journals for publication must not assign copyright to the journal. Work done by Federal employees is not protected by the Copyright Act, and copyright ownership cannot be transferred. The following statement should be used if a Federal employment option is not provided on the journal's copyright form:

I was an employee of the U.S. Federal Government when this work was completed and prepared for publication. Therefore, it is not protected under the Copyright Act, and copyright ownership cannot be transferred.

Reprinting Copyrighted Materials

Fair Use

A common issue for government employees, grantees, and contractors is the use of material from copyrighted publications in reports or documents to be published by AHRQ. The ability to directly quote short passages of text relevant to a particular point is protected under the Fair Use doctrine. Short passages (typically several paragraphs or less) can be quoted without permission, but the copyrighted sources must be indicated in the text or by a footnote or endnote. The ideas from a copyrighted publication can be summarized in your own words, but the author(s) of the original idea should be referenced.

Excerpting Content

Copyright must be taken into account when reproducing material written by others, including tables and figures that were first published in copyrighted publications, photographs and illustrations, software applications, and multimedia content. To use any of these materials, the AHRQ-associated author needs written permission from the copyright holder to reproduce the item. A copy of the permission must accompany any document delivered to AHRQ.

In some cases, the copyright holder, often a journal or book publisher, may charge a fee to use the material. At a minimum, copyright holders will require the reprinted item to run with a statement, such as “Reprinted with permission from J Reason. Human Error. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1990, p.175.”

Tables, Graphs, and Figures

If you create a diagram, graph, or a new table using only part of the data from a copyrighted source, you may be able to cite the item without asking for permission to reprint. If changes are minor and you are using most of the original content, request permission from the source to adapt the material. The changes have to be significant so that the item is sufficiently different than its source to be considered a distinct product. Once permission to adapt the material is received, the item would appear with a statement along the lines of, “Adapted from Donabedian A. Explorations in Quality Assessment and Monitoring: The Definition of Quality and Approaches to Its Assessment. Volume I. Ann Arbor, MI: Health Administration Press, 1980.”

Photographs

Permission is needed to reproduce photographs that are under copyright protection. An exception to this is if the photo is in the public domain (for example, if it was taken specifically for the Federal Government’s use or if it is old enough to be out of copyright). With regard to photographs under copyright protection, you first must determine who owns the rights to the image. Sometimes, the photographer, not the publisher, retains the copyright. The credit line under the picture in a book or journal/magazine/newspaper article should state who the copyright owner is, if it is not held by the publisher. For AHRQ publications, photographs should be accompanied by a notice, for example, “Copyright [or ©] 1956, Time-Life Books.” If the photographer’s name is known, it should be part of the credit line as well (e.g., “Photograph by Ansel Adams, copyright 1967 by National Geographic.”). A sample permission form for the use of photographs is provided in Appendix 1-A.

Digital and Electronic Content

Digital or electronic content is subject to the same protections as print products with some additional provisions specific to online resources. Consult with AHRQ on licensing and permission considerations for the development of electronic databases or Web-based tools.

Reprinting From the Internet

Special care is needed when excerpting or reprinting material from Web sites. Current copyright law suggests that posted material is considered to be under copyright by the author immediately upon its creation, even if no copyright notice is given. Ask permission to reprint posted messages if an email address is given for the author; otherwise, cite the Web site and the date of posting, if indicated.

For both text and graphics, the original source should be consulted to ensure the accuracy of quoted or copied material found on a Web site other than that of the original writer or publisher. Text may have been misquoted, and photographs and other graphics may have been altered.

Copyright of Grantees' Work

Grantees may copyright their work, such as tools and products; however, the Federal Government has the right to use the work for its own purposes, as long as it does not distribute the products outside the Agency.

Licensing Agreements

In general, contractors may not copyright products they create on behalf of AHRQ because contract deliverables are the property of the Federal Government.

However, contract project officers may, in certain circumstances, elect to allow contractors to share rights to the materials by negotiating a licensing agreement after AHRQ receives the deliverable. In these situations, the contractor retains the copyright and the Federal Government has the license to disseminate the products. The Federal Government must indicate who holds the copyright for the tools and products. The licensing agreement can be in the form of a letter. (See a sample form in Appendix 1-A.) When the Agency distributes the material, it will include a disclaimer and copyright notice in the packaging. For further information contact the OCKT managing editor assigned to the project.

Copyright Notices

A notice should be provided of the existence of copyrighted material, as follows:

- When an entire print or electronic document is copyrighted, the notice should be placed on the back of the title page or in another appropriate location in the front matter. (See above, Public Domain Notice.)
- When copyrighted material pertains only to particular photographs, tables, illustrations, or other graphic materials, an abbreviated copyright notice should be placed directly under the copyrighted item.
- For DVDs, CDs, and other electronic media, the notice should be included in the sleeve or wallet.

A sample copyright notice follows, for use in situations where AHRQ has concluded a licensing agreement for the use of a copyrighted product:

“The **(description of item)**, **(title of product)**, is the intellectual property of **(name of organization)**. The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) has a nonexclusive, royalty-free, worldwide license to use and disseminate the work and to authorize others to use it in their delivery of health care or for quality improvement and educational purposes. The **author/owner** hereby assures health care professionals, physicians, nurses, and hospital systems that use of the **(description of item)**, distributed by or through AHRQ, in their practices is permitted. Each user is granted a royalty-free, non-exclusive, non-transferable license to use the product in accordance with the guidance contained in the work.

The product may not be changed in any way by any user. The product and its contents may be used and incorporated into other **(training/educational/specify)** programs on the condition that no fee is charged by the reproducer of the product or its contents for its use. The product may not be sold for profit or incorporated in any profit-making venture without the expressed written permission of **(name of author/owner organization/copyright holder)**.”

Documenting and Filing Permissions

AHRQ requires authors to provide to the OCKT managing editor a copy of the written permission they received to use copyrighted material; also, to give credit to the copyrighted source in a footnote. Example:

Source: World Health Organization, 1990. Used with permission.

The complete citation for the source of the copyrighted material should be included in the reference list. If a table or figure is compiled from data from a number of sources, each source should be listed in a footnote at the bottom of the item, and the complete citation should be included in the reference list. Indication should be given if the table or figure has been adapted.

Samples of copyright permission forms are provided in Appendix 1-A.

Trademarks and Trade Names

- Registered trademarks must be reflected in print or Web copy by using the TM or [®] symbols. Use the symbols on first mention in each chapter and in major headings.
- Trade or brand names of drugs or products must be avoided. For a trademarked or a brand name of a drug, use the generic name whenever possible. Use the *Physicians' Desk Reference*[®] to determine the drug's generic name.
- Any constraints on using the materials must be specified.
- For information about trademarks, see Appendix 1-B.

Additional Information

Additional information on copyright and the use of copyrighted materials can be obtained from the U.S. Copyright Office (www.copyright.gov), which has links to copyright management organizations, such as the Copyright Clearance Center (www.copyright.com). The Copyright Clearance Center helps businesses and academic institutions pay fees for uses of copyright material that do not fall under the Fair Use protections. The AHRQ Information Resources Center participates in the Copyright Clearance Center.

AHRQ staff authors, project officers, and contractors should work with managing editors in AHRQ's Office of Communications and Knowledge Transfer to help them decide what permissions are needed for their project.

Authorship and Credit

Listing Authors With Their Affiliations

A separate list of authors with their affiliations may also be provided in the front matter of a scientific or technical report.

Listing Credentials After an Author's Name

The professional credentials listed after an author's name help establish a publication's credibility. They should be relevant to the topic, the intended audience, and the author's contribution to the publication. Editors should be guided by the author's preferences.

Credentials should be listed in the following order:

- Academic and professional degrees, with the higher-ranked degree first
- Licenses or other State-issued designations
- Professional certifications
- Honors, including fellowships in honorary societies

As a general rule, no more than three credentials should be given.

Acknowledgments

Acknowledgments are optional. Short acknowledgments can be included in the front matter; longer lists of acknowledgments may warrant an appendix. Acknowledgments should describe briefly the specific substantive contribution an individual or organization made. They should call attention to special efforts, and should avoid suggesting that individuals are being thanked for performing their paid duties. Do not include AHRQ staff. The acknowledgments may recognize contractor affiliation, but no outside logo may be used. For example:

We thank John Doe, Ph.D., Professor of Environmental Health Sciences at the XXX School of Public Health, and Jane Roe, M.D., M.Sc.,

Associate Professor of Medicine at the XXX School of Medicine, for their valuable advice on this document.

Editorial Style, Usage, and Punctuation

Resources

Style Manuals

- **Government Printing Office style.** AHRQ follows the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO) Style Manual, available electronically at www.gpoaccess.gov/stylemanual/browse.html.
- **AMA Manual of Style.** For issues of scientific and medical usage not addressed by GPO, we ask you to refer to the American Medical Association Manual of Style.
- **Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association.** Refer to this manual for social science terminology and usage.
- **Press style.** For materials such as press releases intended for publication in newspapers, magazines, and other journalistic outlets, Associated Press style should be used. The current Associated Press Style Book is available at www.apstylebook.com.

Dictionaries

- **Standard English usage.** We suggest *Webster's Third New International Dictionary*.
- **Medical usage.** We suggest *Dorland's Illustrated Medical Dictionary*.

Quick Tips on Usage and Style

The following sections list helpful tips from GPO, along with AHRQ style preferences.

General Usage and Stylistic Considerations

- **Data.** The word “data” takes a plural verb. “Datum” is the singular form of data.
- **Sex versus gender.** “Sex” refers to male or female physical characteristics. “Gender” distinguishes masculine and feminine social roles.
- **People versus persons.** “People”—not persons—is the plural of “person.” Exception: do not correct this in article or book titles in reference lists.
- **Comparisons.** Say “compared with” not “compared to.”
- **Use.** Not utilize.

- **Subjects without content.** Avoid beginning sentences with “it” or “this” when “it” or “this” has no referent.
- **Prevention.** Say “preventive,” not “preventative.”

Statistical Usage

- **p-values.** We prefer lower case regular ($p < 0.05$).
- **Confidence intervals.** Use 95% CI, 3.0 to 6.1. This format makes it clear that the interval is a range; it also prevents confusion between negative signs and hyphens.
- **Probabilities.** When comparing probabilities, be precise. Use “[however many times] as likely” rather than “more likely,” “less likely,” or “very likely.” (Example: Say the odds of getting cancer = 5.7/1000 for women and 17/1000 for men. This means that men are about 3 times as likely to get cancer as women.)
- **Comparisons.** To achieve precision and enable the reader to imagine the importance of your results, report them in comparative terms to describe the magnitude of effect (units, relative risks, absolute terms), when applicable. For example, if the risk of cancer in men is 3/1000 and the risk in women is 6/1000, then the relative risk for women is 2 (twice the risk in men). Use all three terms to provide a full description.
- **Significance.** Ensure that terms such as “inconclusive,” “inadequate,” “insufficient,” “inconsistent,” and “significance” are used consistently and correctly. “Statistical significance has a precise meaning.
- **Equivalence.** Use the technical terms “equivalent,” “noninferior,” and “superior” appropriately.

Medical Usage

- Medical language should be precise. In this example—“as shown on mammography or other imaging”—the techniques are doing the showing and not the images produced by them. A more accurate description would be: “as shown on a mammogram or other radiographic image.”
- Cancer is a general term referring to both carcinomas and sarcomas.
- Taxonomic terms are always italicized (e.g., *Clostridium difficile* or *C. difficile*). Note that the term is spelled out at first usage.
- Patients and study subjects should be described with humane language:
 - Diabetic patients or patients with diabetes, rather than diabetics.

- The treatment failed to alleviate the patient’s symptoms, rather than the patient failed treatment.
- The patient reported chest pain, rather than the patient complained of chest pain.

Titles of Reports

Titles of reports should be brief yet informative. The following tips should help achieve this goal:

- If possible, keep the title to a maximum of 10 words. A short subtitle is optional.
- In general, do not use acronyms in titles. However, if spelling out a term would make the title too long or incomprehensible, or if the acronym is so familiar to the audience that the spelled-out term would be awkward, use the acronym rather than the spelled-out term. Never use both spelled-out term and acronym in a title. (For the purposes of this rule, headings are treated like text, not like titles.)

General Punctuation

- **Spacing at end of sentences.** Use a single space after the period at the end of a sentence.
- **Serial comma.** For elements in a series, use a comma before the conjunctions “and,” “or,” and “nor” (e.g., dog, cat, and bird).
- **Et al.** Use a comma before “et al.” in a reference list (see below under References).
- **Em dash.** Use an em dash (—), with no spaces before or after, to separate phrases or clauses from the rest of a sentence.
- **En dash.** Use an en dash (–) for compound terms when one element of a compound is itself a multi-word element (e.g., New York–New Jersey bridge), and for numeral ranges (e.g., 10–20 or 1999–2000) within the body of the text. (In a reference lists, use hyphens for ranges of pages.)

Bulleted Lists

For a simple list consisting only of words or phrases, do not use periods at the end of the items:

The store has three locations:

- Silver Spring

- Wheaton
- Rockville

If the list contains full sentences, include periods at the end of each item:

The man noticed three things in the waiting room:

- The clock was slow.
- The plants needed to be watered.
- The magazines were dated 1985.

If one item in a list requires a period, all items get periods:

The researchers were very interested in three topics:

- Health care quality.
- Grants.
- The National Healthcare Disparities Report. The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality publishes this report annually.

Use the colon appropriately. The colon functions similarly to a period, as in the examples above. If your bulleted list's introduction is not an independent clause, use the em-dash to introduce the list:

The conferees wanted—

- Grant money
- Fliers
- CDs

Hyphens

- Hyphenate descriptive words when they modify a noun (e.g., lipid-modifying treatment, patient-centered communication, core-needle biopsy).
- Hyphenate the following words only when they are used as modifiers (e.g., long-term care).
 - In-depth analysis
 - Long-term care

- Short-term memory
- Up-to-date statistics
- Do not hyphenate adverbs when they are used descriptively with an adjective (e.g., developmentally based models, clinically relevant dose).
- Use hyphens for ranges of pages in reference lists. (Use en-dashes for numeral ranges within the body of text.)

Hyphenated Prefixes

Prefixes are not hyphenated in AHRQ style, unless the compound produces an unreadable or ambiguous word, or the original word is a proper noun, for example:

- Anti (e.g., anticoagulant; but anti-inflammatory, anti-AIDS)
- Co (e.g., codirector, but co-occurrence)
- Non (e.g., nonopioid, but non-Hispanic)
- Post (e.g., postsurgical, postmarketing; but post-test, post-Darwinian)
- Pre (e.g., preterm)
- Re (e.g., rebiopsy; but re-creation vs. recreation)

Compound Words

- The following appear as one word:
 - Database
 - Dataset
 - Decisionmakers
 - Decisionmaking
 - Email
 - Followup (one word if used as a noun, but two words if used as a verb, such as “the doctor will follow up with you in a few days”)
 - Online
 - Policymakers

- Policymaking
- Words beginning with “anti,” “non,” or “co” are used as compounds unless the compounding produces an unreadable or ambiguous word. (e.g., prefer anti-inflammatory, See above, under Hyphens.)
- Do not compound the following:
 - Use “health care” as two words, except in the Agency’s name or if it is used as one word in official titles.
 - Quality of life, except when used as an adjective (quality-of-life outcomes).
 - Web site, Web conference.

Acronyms

- Define all acronyms in the text at the first mention in each chapter or major report section (i.e., in the text or headings but not the title).
- The first usage should be followed by the acronym in parentheses—for example, angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors (ACEIs).
 - Exception: do not define HIV/AIDS.
- After first usage, use the acronym consistently.
- Use acronyms judiciously. If a term is used only a handful of times in a document, an acronym may not be necessary.
- Avoid using “the” before the acronyms AHRQ, FDA, and NIH.
- List all acronyms and abbreviations at the bottom of figures and tables.

Abbreviations

- Spell out standard medical abbreviations—such as S_{AMe} (*S*-adenosyl methionine), HbA_{1c} (hemoglobin A_{1c}), MRSA (methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*)—at first usage. In general, place the spelled-out version first, followed by the abbreviation in parentheses. (There may be exceptions, when the abbreviation is the focal point of the sentence.)
- Spell out “United States” when used as a proper noun. Use the abbreviation “U.S.” when used as an adjective.
- Spell out these standard abbreviations when they are in text and abbreviate them when they are within parentheses:

- Et cetera (etc.)
- For example (e.g.)
- That is (i.e.)
- Versus (vs.)
- Be careful to distinguish between e.g. (an example from a larger class) and i.e. (an explanation of the term that has been described in the preceding phrase).
- Spell out “percent” in text, but use % in tables, figures, charts, graphs, and parentheses.

Numerals

- Use numerals for time, measurement, and money (e.g., 2-year followup, 4 weeks, 4 percent, 10 cm, \$5 million) and for the number 10 and greater. Write out everything else (six cats, nine oranges, three-ply, fivefold).
- Use numerals for ordinal numbers beginning with 10th (in text and footnotes).
- Numerals are also preferred in charts and in parentheses; for example (n=3 studies).

Capitalization

- Avoid long strings of capitalization, bold, and italics in text.
- Capitalize the following in text as well as headings:
 - The titles and subtitles of the report.
 - The words Federal, State, Nation, and Federal Government. However, do not capitalize nationwide, statewide, local, or federally.
 - Capitalize the Web in “Web site” and “Web conference.” Also capitalize Webcast, Weblog, and Webinar, as one word.
 - Capitalize offices and officers related to AHRQ programs when used as titles: e.g., John Doe, Project Officer; Mary Roe, Task Order Officer.
- In titles and headings, capitalize the following:
 - Prepositions with four or more letters (With, From, Between).

- All 4-letter demonstrative pronouns (This, That).
- All 2- and 3-letter verbal forms (To [in an infinitive], Am, Be, Is, Was, Has, Have).
- Each word in a hyphenated term with initial caps (Off-Label Use of Drugs).
 - Exception: Evidence-based Practice Centers
- Do not capitalize in text:
 - The words “syndrome” and “disease” (e.g., Prader-Willi syndrome, Paget disease)
 - Medical conditions (e.g., type 2 diabetes)

Citations, Reference List, Footnotes, and Bibliography

Citation Style

For citations and reference lists, AHRQ uses its own modification of the Vancouver Style[®], which is similar to PubMed. A detailed explanation follows of how AHRQ asks you to cite sources.

Rules for Citing Sources

For the in-text citations:

- Assign each source a number, in the order in which it is referred to in the text. When the same source is cited a second time, it retains its number.
- Provide a source or attribution for all statements of fact. For example, “Only two studies^{1,2} showed a positive outcome for this treatment approach.”

For the reference list:

- Format all references in AHRQ style; do not use the reference style of the source material.
- Cite in the reference list every reference used in the text.
- Ensure that every reference in the reference list is cited in the text.
- List only the first three authors, followed by a comma, then et al.
- Separate inclusive page numbers by a hyphen.

- To facilitate retrieval, add a document identifier if one is available, such as a PMID number for journal articles indexed by PubMed, an NTIS number for government reports, or a digital object identifier (DOI) for Web documents.

Cross-check to ensure that every reference used in the reference list is cited in the text and vice versa.

Citation Management Software

The use of reference management software, such as Procite[®], EndNote[®], or Reference Manager[®], is recommended.

Citing Journals

- Author name(s) followed by initials (no periods). List up to three authors and then add a comma followed by “et al.” Period at the end of the author list.
- Full title of article, including subtitles, followed by a period. Sentence capitalization.
- Title of journal, abbreviated in Index Medicus style, followed by a period. However, do not italicize the journal title. (This is a deviation from Index Medicus style.)
- Year (month optional), followed by a semicolon, no space after.
- Volume, issue (optional, in parentheses), and page numbers; no spaces. Use a hyphen for a range of numbers.
- Add the PubMed identification (PMID) number to the end of each reference found in PubMed. This unique identifier can be obtained simply by searching for the reference in PubMed. Having it makes future retrieval easier.

Example: standard journal citation:

Ouchida K, LoFaso VM, Capello CF, et al. Fast forward rounds: an effective method for teaching medical students to transition patients safely across care settings. *J Am Geriatr Soc.* 2009 May;57:910-7. PMID: 19368582.

Example with more than three authors:

Lesselroth B, Adams S, Felder R, et al. Using consumer-based kiosk technology to improve and standardize medication reconciliation in a specialty care setting. *Jt Comm J Qual Patient Saf.* 2009 May;35(5):264-71. PMID: 19480380.

Note: The issue number is optional.

Example of a policy statement in a journal, where a committee is the author:

American Academy of Pediatrics, Medical Home Initiatives for Children With Special Health Care Needs Project Advisory Committee. The medical home [policy statement]. *Pediatrics*. 2002 July;110(1):184-6. PMID: 12093969.

Note: The issue number is optional.

Example of an article where individuals are writing as participants in a program (the CERT at U. of Penn.). Because this journal may be unfamiliar, spelling out the institution's name may help the reader recognize the source:

Strom BL, Schinnar R; Center for Education and Research on Therapeutics, University of Pennsylvania. Evaluating health information technology's clinical effects. *Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics (LDI). LDI Issue Brief*. 2011 Feb;16(4):1-4. PMID: 21365962.

Note: In the example above, a semicolon is used to separate the individual authors from the institutional author.

Example of an article in a journal supplement, with a related discussion:

Hadley J. Sicker and poorer—the consequences of being uninsured: a review of the research on the relationship between health insurance, medical care use, health, work, and income. *Med Care Res Rev*. 2003;60(2 Suppl):3S-75S; discussion 76W-112S. PMID: 12800687.

Example of an editorial in a journal:

Alberts ME. Immunization [editorial]. *Iowa Med*. 1989 Oct;79(10):489-93. PMID: 2807831.

Example of a magazine article without a by-line:

“Teach back” technique improves patient safety. *Patient Education Management*. 2007 April;44-5.

Citing Database Reviews and Other Public Health Publications

Use standard PubMed formats for the following kinds of documents, but do not italicize the journal titles:

- *Database Reviews:*

Somaraju UR, Tadepalli K. Hematopoietic stem cell transplantation for Gaucher disease. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev*. 2008;(1):CD006974.

- *Other Public Health Publications:*

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Prevalence of disabilities and associated health conditions among adults: United States, 1999. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep. 2001;50:120-5. PMID: 11393491.

Citing Books

- Author name(s) followed by initials (no periods after initials). Comma between each author. After three authors, use a comma followed by “et al.”
- Title. Use title capitalization for the title of a work as a whole; sentence capitalization for titles of parts—chapters, articles in a series, etc.
- City of publication (followed by a colon), publisher (followed by a semicolon), and date. For the State, (used only when location of city is not clear), use the two-letter U.S. Postal Service abbreviation.
- Use a period to separate each of the three major elements above (author, title, and publication information).

Examples: books with an individual author:

Perrin PG, Smith GH. The Perrin-Smith Handbook of Current English. Chicago: Scott, Foresman; 1962.

Arthur J. Lean Six Sigma Demystified: A Self Teaching Guide. New York: McGraw Hill; 2007.

Example: book with an institutional author:

Beth Israel Hospital. Obstetrical Decision Making. Philadelphia: B.C. Decker; 1987.

Example where both the city and State are needed:

Dennis P. Lean Production Simplified: A Plain-Language Guide to the World's Most Powerful Production System. University Park, IL: Productivity Press; 2002.

Citing a Chapter in a Book or an Article in a Compendium

Note: The parts are in sentence case capitalization; the whole is in title case capitalization.

Examples: chapter in a book:

Cassidy JT, Pefty RE. Basic concepts of drug therapy. In: Textbook of Pediatric Rheumatology. 2nd ed. New York: Churchill-Livingston; 1990:chapter 3.

Pesce MA. Laboratory testing in infants and children. In: Kliegman RM, Behrman RE, Jenson HB, Stanton BF, eds. *Nelson Textbook of Pediatrics*. 18th ed. Philadelphia: Saunders Elsevier; 2007:chapter 714.

Note: Inclusive page numbers are preferred; the chapter is a less desirable alternative.

Examples: volumes in a series:

Rombeau JL, Caldwell MD, eds. Parenteral Nutrition. In: *Clinical Nutrition*, vol. 2. Philadelphia: Saunders; 1986.

Note: The designation ed./eds. is abbreviated.

Merritt CRB. Breast imaging techniques. In: Putnam CE and Ravin CE, eds. *Textbook of Diagnostic Imaging*, vol.3. Philadelphia: Saunders; 1988:2118-20.

Example of a reference with specific page numbers:

Anthony D, Chetty VK, Kartha A., et al. Re-engineering the hospital discharge: an example of a multifaceted process evaluation. In: Henriksen K, Battles JB, Marks ES, et al., eds. *Advances in Patient Safety: from Research to Implementation*, vol. 2. Rockville, MD: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality; 2005:379-94.

A volume in an AHRQ series posted on the Web:

Shojania K, McDonald K, Wachter R, et al. Care coordination. In: *Closing the Quality Gap: A Critical Analysis of Quality Improvement Strategies*, vol. 7. AHRQ Publication No. 04(07)-0051-7. Rockville, MD: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality; 2007.
www.ahrq.gov/clinic/tpcaregaptp.htm. Accessed November 5, 2010.

Citing Scientific and Technical Reports From Government Agencies

- Author name(s). Use “et al.” after three authors. Insert a comma before “et al.”
- Title of the article and/or individual publication within a series. Title capitalization for full-length reports.
- Name of the series.
- Publication or acquisition number.
- City (and state if necessary) of publication, followed by a colon.

- Agency or organization responsible for the series, followed by a semicolon.
- Date of publication.
- DOI number, if available.
- Statement of online availability, if applicable.

Examples: Reports with individual or institutional authors:

Cohen S. Sample design of the 1997 Medical Expenditure Panel Survey Household Component. MEPS Methodology Report No. 11. AHRQ Publication No. 01–0001. Rockville (MD): Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality; 2000.

National High Blood Pressure Education Program Working Group. Working Group Report on High Blood Pressure in Pregnancy. NHBPEP Publication No. 00–3029. Washington, DC: National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute; 2000.

Example: AHRQ compilations for which there are no authors:

Methods Guide for Effectiveness and Comparative Effectiveness Reviews. AHRQ Publication No. 10(11)-EHC063-EF. Rockville, MD: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality; March 2011. Chapters available at www.effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov.

Industrial and Systems Engineering and Health Care: Critical Areas of Research. Final Report. AHRQ Publication No. 10-0079. Rockville, MD: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality; May 2010.

Citing Grant or Contract Reports

- Author name(s).
- Full title of the report. Title capitalization.
- Status of the report, if given (final, draft, preliminary).
- Grantee or contractor.
- Grant or contract number.
- Publication or acquisition number.
- City of publication.
- Agency for which the report was prepared.

- Date (year with first three letters of month).

Example: grant or contract report

Schachter H, Resiman J, Tran K, et al. Health Effects of Omega-3 Fatty Acids on Asthma. Evidence Report/Technology Assessment No. 91. Prepared by University of Ottawa Evidence-based Practice Center under Contract No. 290-01-0021. AHRQ Publication No. 04-E013-2. Rockville, MD: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality; July 2004.

Example: series of case studies published under contract to AHRQ [from Julius]:

Schneider K, Nichols L, Stevens C, et al. Success Stories from the AHRQ-Funded Health IT Portfolio (2009). Prepared by John Snow, Inc., under Contract No. HHS 2902009000181. AHRQ Publication No. 10-0095-3-EF. Rockville, MD: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality; November 2010.

Citing Dissertations and Theses

- Author name.
- Full title of the report. Title capitalization.
- Publication type.
- Location and name of institution.
- Date of publication.

Example: dissertation

Youssef NM. School Adjustment of Children With Congenital Heart Disease [dissertation]. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh; 1988.

Example: thesis

Devins GM. Helplessness, Depression, and Mood in End-Stage Renal Disease [master's thesis]. Montreal, Quebec: McGill University; 1981.

Citing Conference Proceedings

- Editor names(s).
- Title of publication. Title capitalization.
- Title of conference. Title capitalization.
- Dates and place of conference.

- City of publication, publisher, and date of publication.

Example: conference proceedings

Vivian VL, ed. Child abuse and neglect: a medical community response. First AMA National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect; 1984 Mar 30–31; Chicago. Chicago: American Medical Association; 1985.

In addition, papers presented at meetings should begin with:

- Author name(s).
- Full title of paper. Sentence capitalization.

Example: conference paper

Harley NH. Comparing radon daughter dosimetric and risk models. In: Gammage RB, Kaye SV, editors. Indoor Air and Human Health. Proceedings of the 7th Life Sciences Symposium; 1984 Oct 29–31; Knoxville, TN. Chelsea (MN): Lewis Publishers; 1985:69-78.

Example: conference abstract

Lunin LF. Organizing for information interaction in a radiology department [abstract]. In: Petrarca AE, ed. Information Interaction. Proceedings of the 45th ASIS Annual Meeting; 1982 Oct 17–21; Columbus, OH. White Plains (NY): Knowledge Industry Publications, Inc.; 1982:179-80.

Citing a Publication With No Listed Author

When no author is listed for a reference, list the reference alphabetically by title (excluding “A,” “An,” or “The” if it is the first word). For government documents, the publishing agency often will be listed as the report author.

Citing Nonprint Data, Including Web Citations

When nonprint data are used, give the following information as applicable and available:

- Author name(s) followed by initials (no periods). Comma between each author. After three authors, use a comma followed by “et al.”
- Title. Use title capitalization for the title of a work as a whole; sentence capitalization for titles of parts—chapters, articles in a series, etc.
- Type of medium (CD, DVD, etc.).
- Source of data.
- Availability information (for example, Web URL).

- Date accessed, if a Web product.

Example: Web citation

Hsiao C-J, Beatty PC, Hing ES, et al. Electronic Medical Record/Electronic Health Record Use by Office-based Physicians: United States, 2008 and Preliminary 2009. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics.
www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/hestat/emr_ehr/emr_ehr.pdf. Accessed January 7, 2010.

Example: part of database

Sestini P, Renzoni E, Robinson S, et al. Short-acting beta 2 agonists for stable chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews. 2002(4):CD001495.

Example: Web site

Use the following simplified format:

www.ahrq.gov/consumers. Accessed January 16, 2009.

Footnotes

Footnotes should not be confused with references. The reference list at the end of a report is a list of sources cited in the report. Footnotes, on the other hand, are used primarily to provide an explanation that, if included in the text, would interrupt its flow. The following rules apply:

- Use footnotes sparingly.
- Use superscript letters rather than numbers.
- Tables and figures are likely to need footnotes, and may also include citations to the reference list. Cite the source by letter in the body of the table, provide an abbreviated reference at the foot of the table, and list the source(s) in the reference list.
- Provide an alphabetical list of all acronyms and abbreviations at the foot of the table.

Bibliographies

A bibliography should be distinguished from a reference list. A reference list documents the sources of specific statements in the text of a literature review or report. A bibliography can serve various broader purposes: to document the sources used in developing a paper or report, whether or not they were discussed specifically in the text; to evaluate the opinions of others who have written on a topic; or to provide suggestions for further reading.

The structure of a bibliography will depend upon its purpose. Most often, it is arranged alphabetically by its first element: either by author, or in the case of a document without an author, by title.

Type Specifications for Print or Web Manuscripts

Contractors are asked to submit material to AHRQ for publication as a final manuscript. **Type specifications provided here are for word-processed documents only.**

Information on preparation of documents for the Web is available in Section 2 of these guidelines. Please follow this document's guidelines for how manuscript submissions should be formatted. In addition to the examples provided, AHRQ can provide sample publications for contractors or grantees to use as references.

Please note: These specifications are for final contract reports and other generic reports. Use these specifications as guidance only. These specifications do not apply to brochures, booklets, and other desktop published products. Samples provided are for word-processed documents only.

Front Matter

Title page:

- Series title is 18-point bold Arial, title caps
- Main title is 20-point bold Arial, title caps
- Remainder is 12-point Times New Roman

Preface heading is 16-point Arial, flush left.

Contents heading is 16-point Arial, flush left. Use dot leaders before page numbers.

The contents lists chapter titles plus two levels of headings. Include a list of all figures, tables, and appendixes at the end of the contents.

Report Body

Text is 12-point Times New Roman.

Footnotes are 10-point Times Roman, flush left with a block indent. Use superscript numerals (^{1,2}) for ordered references.

Headings

The logical order of your document is made clear by the headings, which provide essential signposts to your readers. Take care to develop a plan for the headings and maintain it throughout the document.

Groups of related headings should be parallel in grammatical construction. Headings should be short and clear. In general, do not use full sentences or questions as headings.

- Be sparing with headings, as too many levels of subordination will confuse the reader. A series of four levels of headings is provided below, in descending order of prominence. Use judgment in choosing the headings. For example, if the deepest level of subordination in your document consists of short paragraphs that really require run-in headings, but you need only two levels of subordination, you may want to choose Levels 1 and 3.

Please use the styles below for your report headings:

- Chapter headings are 18-point Arial, bold, flush left, initial caps. All printed chapters begin on a right (odd) page and all Web-only chapters begin immediately after the previous chapter.
- Level-1 headings are 16-point Arial, bold, centered, initial caps.
- Level-2 headings are 14-point Arial, bold, flush left, initial caps.
- Level-3 headings are 12-point Times Roman, bold, run-in with a period, paragraph indent of .25, first word capitalized.
- Level-4 headings are 12-point Times Roman, italic, run-in with a period, paragraph indent of .25, first word capitalized.

Tables and Figures

Text figures and text tables can be placed either in the chapter near their call-outs or at the end of each chapter. If they are placed at the end of the chapter, provide the table or figure number in the title.

Headings for tables and figures are 10-point Arial, bold, flush left, first word capitalized. They are numbered sequentially throughout the document with a period after the number.

Continued headings use the word “continued” in parentheses (continued) at the end of the heading.

Text for tables and figures is no smaller than 10-point Arial, except for unusually large tables, where 9 point may be warranted.

Table footnotes are 9-point Times Roman, flush left. Use superscript symbols ^(*,#) or superscript lower-case alpha ^(^{a,b}) for ordered references.

Back Matter

References and bibliography headings are 18-point Arial, bold, flush left, initial (title) caps.

References are 10-point Times Roman, 2 columns, and bibliographies are 12-point Times Roman and single column.

Type Specifications for Desktop-Published Products

Periodically contractors are asked to submit materials to AHRQ for publication as final, typeset (desktop published) products. Please ask for samples of AHRQ products (i.e., fact sheets, brochures, DVDs, booklets) to gain a clear understanding of design concepts used at AHRQ.

Font sizes and graphics must be appropriate for the audience and culture. Many programs have an established “family of products” design that use colors and design elements that tie them together with a common theme. Please ask if your product is part of a larger program. See Section 7 for more information about design specifications.

If stock photographs are used, they must be purchased for AHRQ use and must be royalty-free.

Samples for Print or Web Documents

Sample Headings

Note: These sample headings are for word-processed documents only. Examples follow each entry.

Chapter headings are 18-point Arial, bold, flush left, initial title caps.

Introduction

Level-1 headings are 16-point Arial, bold, centered, initial title caps.

Workshop

Level-2 headings are 14-point Arial, bold, flush left, initial caps.

Workshop Scope

Level-3 headings are 12-point Times Roman, bold, run-in with a period, paragraph indent of .25, first word capitalized.

A new system. The workshop chair, all six session chairs, and the two keynote speakers articulated the characteristics of the ideal health care delivery system of the

future in their vision statements, without drawing the details of the structure. The new system is not merely an extension of the existing system but is fundamentally different.

Level-4 headings are 12-point Times Roman, italic, run-in with a period, paragraph indent of .25, first word capitalized.

A patient-centered system. At the center of the system is the patient and their family. Care is personalized for them, with consistency throughout the lifespan, and memory of their preferences and particularities.

Sample: Inside front cover for a final report

This page is usually blank in printed documents.

Final Contract Report

[Series Title: Arial Bold 18 with 1½-point line]

Industrial and Systems Engineering and Health Care: Critical Areas of Research

[Title: Arial Bold 20]

Prepared for:

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
540 Gaither Road
Rockville, MD 20850
www.ahrq.gov

Contract No. 290-2007-10055

Prepared by:

Patrick Romano, M.D., M.P.H.
University of California, Davis

Peter Hussy, Ph.D.
RAND Corporation

Dominique Ritley, M.P.H.
University of California, Davis

AHRQ Publication No. 09(10)-0073
May 2010

[Times New Roman
12 Point]

Sample: Back of title page

Note: Please consult with the OCKT managing editor about the specific content of this page.

[For grantee articles, final reports, and contract deliverables that AHRQ publishes:]

The findings and conclusions in this document are those of the author(s), who are responsible for its content, and do not necessarily represent the views of AHRQ. No statement in this report should be construed as an official position of AHRQ or of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Disclaimer of Conflict of Interest

None of the investigators has any affiliations or financial involvement that conflicts with the material presented in this report.

Funding Statement

This project was funded under contract/grant number XXXX from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The opinions expressed in this document are those of the authors and do not reflect the official position of AHRQ or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Public Domain Notice

This document is in the public domain and may be used and reprinted without special permission. Citation of the source is appreciated.

[Or,]

This document is in the public domain and may be used and reprinted without permission except those copyrighted materials that are clearly noted in the document. Further reproduction of those copyrighted materials is prohibited without the specific permission of copyright holders.

Statement on Accessibility

Persons using assistive technology may not be able to fully access information in this report. For assistance contact AHRQ at info@ahrq.gov [or other appropriate contact designated by the managing editor].

Suggested Citation

Suggested citation: Romano P, Hussy P, Ritley D. Selecting Industrial and Systems Engineering and Health Care: Critical Areas of Research. Prepared under Contract No. 290-2009-10027. AHRQ Publication No. 10-0079. Rockville, MD: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality; May 2010.

Sample: Acknowledgments (optional)

Note: Keep acknowledgments to one page or move them to an appendix.

Acknowledgments

We thank John Doe, Ph.D., Professor of Environmental Health Sciences at the XXX School of Public Health, and Jane Roe, M.D., M.Sc., Associate Professor of Medicine at the XXX School of Medicine, for their valuable advice on this document.

Sample: Contents

Contents

Executive Summary	
Introduction	
Risk Factors	
Key Questions	
Uses of This Report	
Methods	
Literature Review Methods.....	
Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria.....	
Literature Search and Retrieval Process	
Literature Synthesis	
Development of Evidence Tables and Data Abstraction Process	
Quality Rating of Individual Studies	
Strength of Available Evidence	
Results	
Discussion	
References and Included Studies	
List of Acronyms/Abbreviations	

Figures

Figure 1. Figure name	
-----------------------------	--

Tables

Table 1. Table name.....	
--------------------------	--

Appendixes

Appendix A. Exact Search Strings.....	
Appendix B. Sample Data Abstraction Forms.....	
Appendix C. Evidence Tables.....	
Appendix D. Excluded Studies	
Appendix E. Peer Reviewers	

Submission of Documents to AHRQ

General Procedures

1. Adhere strictly to the font types, sizes, margins, spacing, and other guidance in these Publishing and Communications Guidelines. Consult with the AHRQ managing editor regarding any special formatting requirements.
2. Use “Styles” in Microsoft Word to designate the font type and size for titles, heading, and subheadings. Doing so facilitates conversion to a 508-compliant document.
3. Remove any contractor graphics and logos.
4. Submit the entire report electronically, either in a single Microsoft Word, Excel, or PowerPoint file or a series of files; as an attachment to an email or in a memory card or CD. **PDF files are not acceptable as primary submissions but a PDF of the entire series of files may accompany the submission.**
5. Include the title page, citation, preface, and acknowledgments in one document called “front matter.” OCKT will add minimal front matter information to reports, including the Agency logo, AHRQ publication number, and the publication date.
6. Name the remaining files separately, indicating clearly what they are (i.e., structured abstract, table of contents, executive summary, chapter name and number, table number, appendix number, or references). Add the date of submission to each file name for purposes of version control.
7. Paginate the report consecutively, according to the table of contents, with the exception of an executive summary and any appendixes, which should be numbered independent of the report.
8. At the very end of the editorial process, “delink” all databases (such as EndNote) from the final electronic files. Ensure that any data that would be pulled from a database is included in the final submission. EndNote can generate a final standalone reference list. Consult with the AHRQ managing editor about the appropriate timing of “delinking.”
9. The reference list should be numbered sequentially, and no reference should be listed more than once. **Note: If inserting endnotes using the MS Word endnote function, use the cross reference function to cite the same reference more than once.**
10. Check your report for copyrighted materials. Include with your final submission a copy of permissions you received to use copyrighted material. **Be sure that all copyrighted material includes attribution to source** (see Appendix 1-A).

Procedure for Reports Submitted as Final Copy

Submit the entire report in hard copy, in a form that can be used for printing, with spacing, pagination, and margins. Submit electronic files as described above. **Do not bind the final report.**

Submitting Figures, Charts, Graphs, and Tables

Figures, charts, graphs, and tables should be placed in the text of the manuscript and should be numbered sequentially in the text (Figure 1, Table 1, etc.).

Figures, charts, and graphs must be provided in an editable format as well as the image pasted into the Word document. The figures, charts, and graphs should be created in Adobe Illustrator and saved as either Illustrator or eps files. Minimum resolution is 300 dpi. Tables should be created in Word. Microsoft Visio, PowerPoint, and PDF are not acceptable formats for figures, charts, and graphs.

Procedure for Reports Submitted as Final Manuscript or Peer Review Copy

If binding the deliverable in a certain format is essential to the usefulness of the product, submit one bound hardcopy sample for AHRQ to use in developing formatted products.

Note: Grant Final Progress Reports must be submitted in accordance with instructions in Appendix 1-C.

Procedures for Print-Ready Products Submitted for Offset Printing

1. If submitting print-ready files, save them in their native page layout formats (i.e., Quark Xpress or Adobe InDesign). Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint files are not considered print-ready formats and cannot be used for offset printing.
2. Submit graphic and font files on a CD, along with a printout. If accompanying graphic files (eps or tif) include text, convert the text to outlines prior to saving the files.
3. Send a color printout of the document at actual size, including folioed pages, as well as documentation indicating the versions of software used, computer platform (Mac or PC), ink colors (Pantone or CMYK), number of pages, contact person, and other relevant information. GPO Form 952 provides an easy way to convey this information. It is available for download at www.gpo.gov/pdfs/customers/sfas/952.pdf.

Procedures for DVD or CD Products

If the contract stipulates that your final product will be a DVD or a CD, you must consult with your managing editor to determine the file format for any multimedia product you submit. If your final product will be a DVD or a CD, you must provide system requirements and directions for accessing the product. An example follows:

System Requirements

This DVD can be played in stand-alone DVD players and on Mac[®] and personal computers with DVD drives. The minimum hardware and software requirements for viewing the DVD on a PC or a Mac[®] are:

Processor: 667 MHz Intel[®] Pentium[®] III processor or equivalent

Memory: 128 MB RAM

Screen Resolution: 800 x 600

Color: 16-bit

Sound card: 16-bit sound card and speakers

Peripherals: DVD drive

Directions for Use

The DVD is designed to start automatically when it is inserted into any stand-alone DVD player or computer with a DVD drive. If it doesn't:

For DVD Player: Press the Play button for the video to begin.

For Windows[®] PC: Open Internet Explorer, select your DVD drive, and double click Play.

For Mac[®]: Double click on the icon to open the disk in the Finder and then double click on the file.

The Editorial and Production Processes at AHRQ

This section provides an overview of the different types of editorial review a document goes through once it is received by the AHRQ managing editor. It informs you about the three levels of editing most commonly undertaken, and shows you the checklists used by the editor.

Objectives of the Editorial Process

The objectives of the editorial process at AHRQ are to: (1) ensure that the manuscript is grammatically correct and in Government Printing Office (GPO) style; (2) improve its consistency, clarity, and general readability; and (3) ensure that it conforms with AHRQ format and branding requirements. Regardless of level of edit or degree of difficulty, each editing assignment includes a general read-through of the manuscript, editing according to the requirements of the specific level of edit, monitoring of production aspects, proofreading, and a final review of the camera-ready document.

Levels of Edit

The publishing team in AHRQ's Office of Communications and Knowledge Transfer (OCKT) has established an editorial policy that defines three "levels of edit." Each print or electronic document received by the publishing team is assigned a level of edit according to its category and series within each category. Each level of edit indicates the degree of scrutiny and resource allocation that the document will receive.

Each level of edit includes a specified set of editorial tasks. A production schedule is established for each document, according to the level of effort desired and the time and labor resources available. This production schedule may be influenced by external factors such as a pre-specified AHRQ release date or a journal publication date.

The three levels of edit are described below:

1. **Production editing:** Minimal review for completeness, obvious errors in format, conformance with branding, and compliance with Government Printing Office style and *AHRQ Publishing and Communications Style Guidelines* (as appropriate). Production editing encompasses proofreading of page proofs and preparation of documents prior to final approval for printing.
2. **Copyediting:** This level encompasses all elements of production editing, plus attention to sentence and paragraph structure, parallel construction, conciseness, clarity, and consistency in terminology. Cross-references in the text are checked as well as the completeness, accuracy, and format of tables, charts, footnotes, and reference citations and lists. AHRQ's copyediting level also includes one major substantive element: review of documents for policy implications and political sensitivities.
3. **Substantive editing:** This level encompasses all elements of production editing and copyediting, as well as direct efforts to improve the clarity, consistency, and readability of the work. Substantive editing may entail reorganizing and redrafting text, drafting transitions between sections, writing abstracts and summaries, recasting or developing tables and figures, and reviewing source documents to determine that they have been used and cited correctly.

Checklist of Standard Editorial Procedures

The following procedures are followed for all documents regardless of level of edit. The editor will check them off as they are completed:

- Call out first references to tables or figures in the margin (T1 for Table 1, F3 for Figure 3).
- Number queries consecutively in the margin (Q1, Q2, Q3).
- Create a separate query sheet, listing each query by number and detailing the concern. This separate document will facilitate communication with the author and AHRQ program staff by providing a quick overview of the major issues to be addressed.

- In addition, embed all changes by using the “track changes” function and post all queries using the “comment” function.
- Review the document for copyright permissions and credit lines.

Production Editing Checklist

Production editing is the least intensive of the three levels of edit undertaken at AHRQ. It entails both proofreading and elements of copyediting. The document is reviewed for completeness and for conformance with the format of the particular series to which it belongs and with GPO and AHRQ style. Obvious errors are identified and corrected. Tables and figures are reviewed and reference citations are checked for completeness and correctness of format. The need for copyright permissions is identified and permission or credit lines are created accordingly.

At this level, the editor focuses primarily on the mechanical basics rather than context or content. The production edit is used when only minimal editing is feasible, or as the final editorial review of an edited manuscript already in the production process.

Proofreading page proofs or final copy prior to approval for printing is a separate process to ensure that no elements of the text have been dropped as the document has moved through production. It is a final review for format, layout, and branding, and to ensure that no typographical errors have crept into or have been carried through the document during the process.

The production editor will check off each of the following tasks as they are completed:

- Determine that component parts are present and in correct order.
- Check for compliance with branding requirements and AHRQ identity and formatting.
- Review title page and correct for compliance with AHRQ requirements.
- Review title for appropriateness and length (10-word maximum).
- Ensure that pages, tables, and figures are numbered in sequence.
- Cross check contents page with text.
- Check consistency and subordination of headings according to AHRQ guidelines.
- Check factual information that can be readily verified (such as addresses, phone numbers, historical dates, AHRQ legislation numbers, publication number, grant or contract number, etc.)
- Ensure that all figures, tables, graphics, and other elements have copyright attribution and permission where appropriate.
- Review and correct for GPO style.
- Correct typographical errors.
- Correct spelling errors.

- Correct punctuation errors.
- Correct capitalization errors.
- Correct abbreviations and acronyms; spell out at first mention.
- Ensure that symbols are used properly.
- Correct use of numerals and units of measurement.
- Correct race and ethnicity designations, per AHRQ style.
- Ensure internal consistency in alphabetical or numeric sequences in lists, text, footnotes, tables, and figures.
- Check cross references in text to tables and figures.
- Check that data discussed in text match the same data presented in tables and figures.
- Check tables and figures for unified approach and format; query inconsistencies.
- Check reference citations for completeness and format; check that all references cited are listed and that all listed are cited; check agreement of embedded references and reference list, in terms of author name spelling and year; query inconsistencies or indicate the need for verification if errors or omissions are found.

Copyediting Checklist

Copyediting includes all features of a production edit, plus attention to sentence and paragraph structure, parallel construction, conciseness, clarity, and consistency in terminology. The AHRQ copyeditor will check cross references in text and the completeness, accuracy, and format of tables, charts, footnotes, reference citations, and lists. The copyeditor will also review for policy implications and political sensitivities. At this level, the editor reviews the mechanical basics but also focuses on the readability and sense of the document and provides thorough verification of data presented with careful review of reference citations. This is an appropriate level of editorial review for most types of documents to ensure an accessible, good-quality publication. The copyeditor will check off the following tasks as they are completed:

- Determine that component parts are present and in correct order.
- Check for compliance with branding requirements and AHRQ identity and formatting.
- Review title page and correct for compliance with AHRQ requirements.
- Review title for appropriateness and length (10-word maximum).
- Ensure that pages, tables, and figures are numbered in sequence.
- Cross check contents page with text.
- Check consistency of headings and subordination (AHRQ guidelines).

- Check factual information that can be readily verified (such as addresses, phone numbers, historical dates, AHRQ legislation numbers, publication number, grant or contract number, etc.)
- Ensure that subordinate heads follow logically.
- Ensure that there are at least two entries for each level of subordination.
- Add or delete subheads as needed to reflect content.
- Reword or shorten headings to reflect content (3-5 words).
- Ensure that all figures, tables, graphics, and other elements have copyright attribution and permission where appropriate.
- Correct typographical errors.
- Ensure that all sentences are complete.
- Ensure that any incomprehensible statements are queried.
- Shorten and clarify excessively long sentences.
- Ensure that elements in a series are parallel.
- Review and correct for GPO style.
- Correct spelling errors.
- Correct punctuation errors.
- Correct capitalization errors.
- Correct abbreviations and acronyms; spell out at first mention.
- Ensure that symbols are used properly.
- Correct use of numerals and units of measurement.
- Correct race and ethnicity designations, per AHRQ style.
- Ensure internal consistency in alphabetical or numeric sequences in lists, text, footnotes, tables, and figures.
- Check cross references in text to tables and figures.
- Ensure that all tables and figures are specifically referenced in the correct order.
- Verify data in text against tables and figures.
- Check tables and figures for unified approach and format; query inconsistencies.
- Ensure consistent use of headings and footnotes for tables.
- Check for legends and x- and y-axis labels on charts and graphs.
- Ensure that line art (figures, illustrations, etc.) is titled and clearly labeled.
- Check reference citations for completeness and format; query inconsistencies or missing information.
- Cross check reference citations in text against reference list for accuracy.

- Reformat reference list and bibliography entries according to prescribed style.
- Eliminate or rework derogatory, judgmental, or otherwise inappropriate comments.

Substantive Editing Procedures

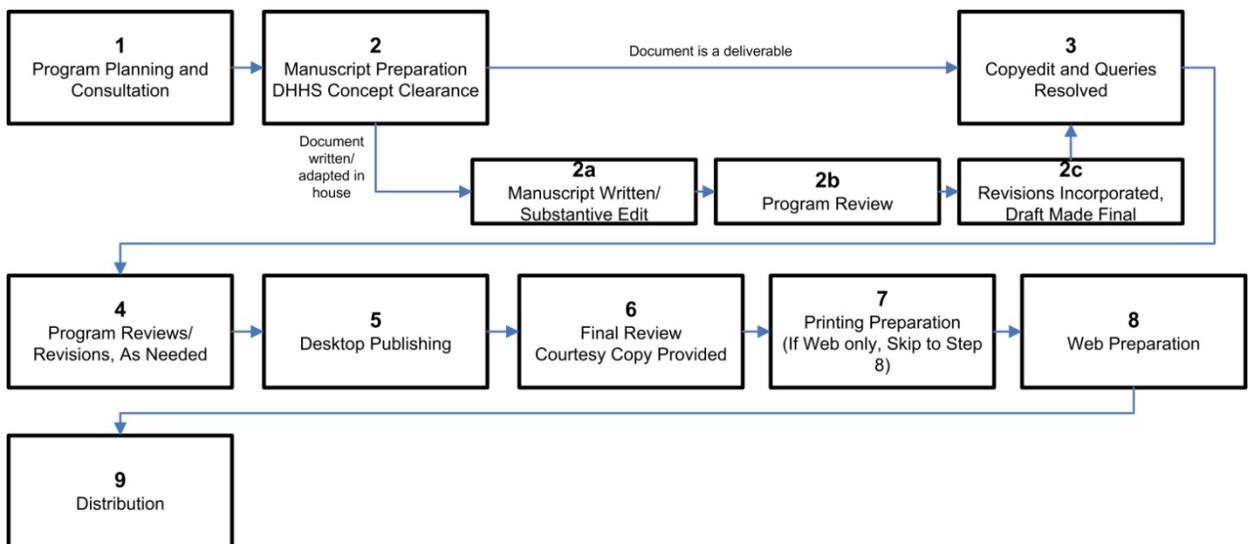
Substantive editing includes all features of a production edit and copyedit, plus review for meaningful content to ensure that presentation is logical and coherent. This level of editing may involve reorganizing and redrafting text, writing transitions between sections, preparing abstracts and summaries, recasting or developing tables or figures, and reviewing source documents listed as references to ensure that they have been used and cited correctly.

This is the most complete and thorough type of editorial review. The editor evaluates and reworks the document to ensure coherent organization and understandable presentation. This level is reserved for documents that are intended to be high visibility publications that must meet the highest standards for professionalism and effective communication. It is especially important that the author and AHRQ program staff authorize all substantive changes.

The copyediting checklist is used in addition to any substantive rewriting and reorganization of the material.

The Publications Process

This information provides an overview of the steps involved in the publishing process.



Step	Title	Description
1	Program planning and consultation	<p>Individual programs determine a need for a publication based on specific program requirements and AHRQ goals. Center/Office directors request OCKT publications planning and consultation services.</p> <p>A managing editor who will handle all aspects of the publishing and production process is assigned to the project. The managing editor meets with marketing and implementation and program staff to discuss the distribution plan, dissemination needs, format, presentation, clearance issues, and parameters of document (sections, length, need for appendices, data requirements, unusual style or content needs, or requests to specific staff or contract writers to prepare product). If OCKT staff or contractor will be drafting the document, timeframes for deliverables are negotiated, including Web requirements.</p>
2	Manuscript preparation, DHHS concept clearance (Note: Steps 2a-2c do not apply if the document is a contract deliverable)	Departmental concept clearance documentation is prepared, including cost estimate, mailing costs, etc. Sensitive clearances are discussed with program officials and strategic planner. Meetings with strategic planner, marketing and implementation, and other program staff are held to discuss potential press or other related issues, including release events.
2a	Manuscript written/substantive edit	Draft of product is written by the programs or materials are provided for use by contractor or OCKT staff writers in developing a draft.
2b	Program review	Program revises document internally. Programs may circulate document to the AHRQ director or peer reviewers within or outside of Agency for comment. Documents prepared by OCKT managing editor or outside contractors are submitted for program review. OCKT and program negotiate production schedule. Files are submitted in paper and electronically.
2c	Revisions incorporated, draft made final	Program/or OCKT managing editor reviews and incorporates comments of outside reviewers, as appropriate, and the document is revised to create final draft. If managing editor is working with an outside contractor, the editor provides feedback for revisions and ensures the contractor will submit deliverable product according to agreed-upon specifications, etc.
3	Copyedit, queries resolved	Managing editor copyedits the document and resolves queries.

4	Program/author reviews and approves edited manuscript	Program staff and managing editor meet to review editorial comments or author reviews and responds independently. Changes can be incorporated on electronic file either by author or by editorial staff. Corrected manuscript is proofread against editorial/review changes to ensure accuracy. Final manuscript is circulated to any AHRQ or outside reviewers, as required. Any changes are incorporated. Program reviews and approves manuscript.
5	Desktop publishing	Document is sent electronically to desktop publishing for composition according to series layout and design. Document layout is proofread and examined for introduction of new errors and for format. All changes are marked and returned to desktop publishing for corrections.
6	Final review, courtesy copy provided	Managing editor reviews final changes and provides courtesy copy to program staff, strategic planner, and Deputy Director of Operations (Publishing) for review.
7	Printing preparation	Managing editor requests that desktop publishing staff submit final materials for printing through GPO. Desktop publishing staff prepares necessary printing forms that include job specifications (as agreed in step 2, above), such as paper stock, ink color, binding, quantity, distribution plan, and mailing instructions. Associate director, publishing and electronic dissemination, approves and signs the printing requisition. Mailing list labels are generated. Paperwork for NTIS is prepared, if needed. Managing editor folios (numbers printable pages and blanks) job for Word documents.
8	Web preparation	Managing editor requests txt and pdf files of the manuscript from desktop publishing and e-mails them to “AHRQ WebAdmin” with context statement, directory/subdirectory placement, and any specific directions to the Web team. Web team codes the materials and provides test page for the editor to review. Material is then posted in accordance with releasing plan.
9	Distribution	Printed publications are mailed/shipped according to distribution list.

Note about timelines. The amount of time required for each step in the process depends on the size of the document, the complexity, and the level of editing required. Timeframes are also subject to negotiation at the beginning of the job and may need to be renegotiated if milestone target dates are missed by either the program client or OCKT for good cause.

Explanation of levels of editing. OCKT uses three levels of editing: Level 1—Production editing: usually proofreading with light copyediting; format, design, and layout; and printing and Web production. Level 2—Copyediting: usually includes everything in Level 1 *PLUS* a review for grammar, punctuation, style, content agreement, accuracy, reference citations, formatting. Level 3—Substantive Editing: usually includes

everything in Level 1 and Level 2 *PLUS* a significant amount of re-writing of the content of the document. Original writing is separate from Levels of Edit.

Additional Information

To discuss specific issues or to obtain additional guidance on publishing style specifications, contact:

Randie Siegel
Associate Director
Office of Communications and
Knowledge Transfer
Email: randie.siegel@ahrq.hhs.gov
Phone: 301-427-1852

Sandy Cummings
Deputy Director Operations/Publishing
Office of Communications and
Knowledge Transfer
Email: sandra.cummings@ahrq.hhs.gov
Phone: 301-427-1893