

AJHP Sections and Columns

The *AJHP* sections that include unsolicited papers are described here for readers, prospective authors, and reviewers. Not every section is represented in every issue.

SECTIONS OF *AJHP*

Clinical Reviews: Literature reviews that focus primarily on a drug or disease and its treatment, with emphasis on pharmacotherapy. Drug reviews are detailed, analytic reviews of the clinical use of new drugs. Evaluative literature reviews are preferred to reviews that are simply descriptive.

Therapy Updates: Concise analytic reviews of narrowly defined, important topics in pharmacotherapy; not intended to be comprehensive reviews of drugs or of diseases and their treatment. Articles that focus on new or emerging standards in drug therapy receive priority.

Clinical Frontiers: Articles that summarize important ongoing research on disease processes, drug mechanisms, or new technologies and project the likely implications for therapy.

Clinical Consultation: Brief advice on how to handle specific drug therapy problems. The articles are based on systematic review of the literature that focuses on addressing a specific clinical topic.

Case Reports: Articles that (1) describe unusual drug reactions or pharmacotherapy-related issues or uses, or (2) provide valuable information particularly for teaching purposes. Cases encountered by clinical practitioners, residents, or students, and referred to drug information centers or cases presented in teaching conferences may be especially appropriate. Papers should clearly present the case and include all pertinent and appropriate patient information, establish a causal relationship with an objective measurement, explain the case's contribution to the literature, and describe how the lessons from the case can be applied.

Primers: Intended as introductions to various fields of knowledge that are of interest to pharmacists in health systems. Can be reviews of basic information in areas related to pharmacy (e.g., pharmaceuticals or physiology) or those further from the mainstream of pharmacy (e.g., advances in nondrug health care technology).

Reports: Articles that (1) report original research, including clinical research on the effects of drugs in humans, surveys, drug stability studies, and evaluations of innovative pharmaceutical services and (2) describe (without substantive evaluations) innovative pharmaceutical services.

Notes: Includes (1) practical innovations or solutions to everyday practice problems, (2) updates or elaborations on work previously published by the same authors, (3) confirmations of research findings previously published by others, and (4) short research reports, including practice surveys, of modest scope or interest. The text should be concise, and the number of references, tables, and figures should be limited.

Case Studies: Approaches to managing practice-related problems in health systems. Problem solving, not hypothesis testing, is emphasized.

Commentaries: Well-reasoned expressions of opinion on issues related to drug therapy, clinical research, the role of pharmacists in society, or health care (especially policy matters related to pharmaceutical services and to the therapeutic use of drugs).

Medication-Use Technology: Describes experiences with and implications of new technologies applied in the medication-use process, including but not limited to computerized prescriber order entry, bar coding, electronic medical records, and other automation. Papers should focus on selection, planning, implementation, resources, integration of existing information, and lessons learned.

Pharmacy Abroad: Brief, informal, and topical communications related to pharmacy in other countries. Contributions from pharmacists who live or have traveled abroad are welcome.

Reflections: Short contributions about the nontechnical sides of life. Satirical writings, literary pieces, histories and essays about family life, work, nature, art, literature, entertainment, travel, or modern society. Submissions are evaluated mainly for quality of the writing.

COLUMNS OF *AJHP*

Letters: A forum for rapid exchange of ideas among readers of *AJHP*. Liberal criteria are applied in the review of submissions to encourage contributions to this column. The Letters column includes the following types of contributions: (1) comments, addenda, and minor updates on previously published work, (2) alerts on potential problems in practice, (3) observations or comments on trends in drug use, (4) opinions on apparent trends or controversies in drug therapy or clinical research, (5) opinions on public health issues of interest to pharmacists in health systems, (6) comments on ASHP activities, and (7) human interest items about life as a pharmacist. Reports of adverse drug reactions must present a reasonably clear description of causality. Short papers on practice innovations and other original work are included elsewhere in *AJHP*.

The following conditions must be adhered to: (1) the body of the letter must be no longer than two typewritten pages, (2) the use of references and tables should be minimized, (3) the number of authors should be no more than three, (4) the authors' names, affiliations, and mailing addresses must be typed at the end of the letter in the format used by *AJHP*, and (5) the entire letter (including references, tables, and authors' names) must be typed double-spaced.

Alternative Therapies: Short reviews of herbals and other "nutraceuticals" for which there is some scientific evidence of effectiveness. The contributing editor for Alternative Therapies is Joseph Pepping, Pharm.D., Complementary Medicine Consultant, Kaiser Permanente, Honolulu, HI.

Frontline Pharmacist: Provides pharmacists an opportunity to share their experiences and pertinent lessons related to day-to-day practice. Topics include workplace innovations, cooperating with peers, communicating with other professionals, dealing with management, handling technical issues related to pharmacy practice, and supervising technicians.

Informatics Interchange: Provides readers an opportunity to share their experiences with information technology in pharmacy. Topics should focus on the use of information technology in the medication use process, informatics pearls, informatics education and research, and information technology management.

Management Consultation: Provides readers with advice, in question-and-answer format, on common management problems from pharmacists practicing in health systems. Questions should be narrow in scope, such that they can be answered in approximately 500 words.

New Practitioners Forum: Features articles that address the special professional needs of pharmacists early in their careers as they transition from students to practitioners. Authors include new practitioners or others with expertise in a topic of interest to new practitioners.

The Pharmacy Student Forum: Features articles that address the unique needs of students throughout school as they transition into new practitioners. Authors include students and others with expertise in a topic of interest to students.

Q & A: Features ASHP staff responses to inquiries from pharmacists in health systems. Through this column, more practitioners can benefit from the answers prepared by the staff. The column may also include answers solicited from others, including government agencies such as OSHA, FDA, and DEA.

Current Literature: Brief reviews of print and electronic publications (e.g., CD-ROMs, software) that are of interest to pharmacists. Reviews of fiction and nonfiction publications loosely related to health care are also included at the editors' discretion.