Guide for Continuum® Practice Issues Authors

Thank you for agreeing to contribute to an issue of Continuum. This brief guide outlines your responsibilities when writing a Practice Issues article for Continuum.

**HONORARIA**
Each Practice Issues author will receive an honorarium and a complimentary one-year subscription to Continuum.

**OVERVIEW OF PRACTICE ISSUES ARTICLE**
Each Continuum issue is based on a single topic in neurology assembled by a guest editor who invites authors to address the clinical, pathophysiologic, diagnostic, treatment, and management issues surrounding the topic in a series of review articles. The Practice Issues article, which appears in each issue of Continuum, is prepared by an author invited by Continuum’s Associate Editor for Practice.

The Practice Issues article consists of the presentation of a brief case synopsis followed by a discussion of a practice-related issue raised by the case. The Practice Issues article should NOT address pathophysiology, diagnosis, or treatment, specifically, but rather an issue related to the practice of neurology as related to the topic. The Associate Editor of Practice may choose to select the topic covered, but if not, ideas for topics include:

- Patient safety
- Applying guidelines to clinical practice
- HIPAA and privacy issues
- Pay for Performance and quality initiatives
- Practice management and health information technologies (e.g., documentation, use and abuse of electronic health records)
- Regulatory issues and third-party relations
- Medicolegal issues
- Patient/family communication
- Social consequences of neurological disease

**Note:** A separate accompanying section of each issue of Continuum covers ethical issues in a similar format. Topics related to medical ethics should therefore also be avoided in the Practice Issues article. Coding is also covered in a separate article and should be avoided in the Practice Issues article.
Practice Issues contributions may be based on an actual or hypothetical clinical case but should be written in such a way that the identities of the patients, families, physicians, or other health care professionals involved are not divulged. The case should contain only as much clinical information as is necessary, and be referred to as appropriate in the discussion. Although the discussion should be balanced, it is nonetheless permissible to express a preferred option.

PRACTICE ISSUES INSTRUCTIONS

Submission Process

Email all components of your completed submission to Anna Hohler, MD, FAAN, Associate Editor of Practice, hohlera@hotmail.com, and Amanda Doering, Sr. Program Manager, adoering@aan.com, by the agreed-upon deadline.

Format

1. Word limit is 1000 to 1800 words.
2. Include a one-sentence educational learning objective detailing the knowledge to be gained by participants upon reading the Practice Issues article, using the following format:

   “Upon completion of this Practice Issues article, participants will be able to….”

3. Include an abstract of not more than 125 words.
4. Present a brief case synopsis. The case may be presented progressively in between pertinent discussion of the practice-related topic.
5. Using the case details as a springboard, present a narrative discussion of the chosen practice-related dilemma. Remember that the Practice Issues articles are not intended to be a review of the pathophysiology, diagnosis, treatment, or management of the clinical case scenario. Examples of previously published Practice Issues articles are attached as a further guide. Additional examples will be provided upon request.
6. All references should be cited in the text. References should be numbered in the text as they occur; for example,1, 1,2 or 1,3. A modified Vancouver style of listing references is used. Do not worry about submitting references in this style; all references will be changed to conform to the Continuum style during the editing process.

Editorial Style

- The case should be presented in past tense.
- The discussion should preferably be written in the third person, using plural pronouns wherever practicable so as to avoid the cumbersome he/she or him/her approach to singular pronouns while remaining gender neutral.
- It is best to avoid first person sentences (eg, I or we), although in the circumstance where the author expresses a preferable course of action, this may be permissible.
Avoid the use of sentence construction with “The neurologist should…” or “The physician should…”.

**Manuscript Review and Revision**
The manuscript will be reviewed and edited by the Associate Editor for Practice and Editor-in-Chief, and copyedited by editorial office staff. Lengthy case presentations may be shortened. There will likely be queries or revision requests regarding the author’s discussion of the practice issue. For example, the author may be asked to justify certain statements on the basis of more detailed analysis or may be asked to better present a balanced discussion. This process differs from the usual peer-review process of scientific publications, and in some respects, represents discourse between the author and the editors on the issues being presented in order to bring out important points or details.

Authors are required to review the first page proof and submit edits, if any, to the editorial office.

**Core Competencies**
The American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology (ABPN) has reviewed *Continuum: Lifelong Learning in Neurology* and has approved this product as part of a comprehensive lifelong learning and self-assessment program, which is mandated by the ABMS as a necessary component of Maintenance of Certification. As part of an effort to maintain that endorsement, authors are encouraged to address core competencies in each issue whenever possible. Core competencies are as follows:

- Patient care and procedural skills
- Medical knowledge
- Interpersonal and communication skills
- Practice-based learning and improvement
- Professionalism
- Systems-based practice


**Illustrations**
Illustrations and tables are generally not necessary for Practice Issues articles. If they are included, the author must indicate whether permission to reprint the figure or table is necessary and provide the full reference citation.

**Permissions**
The editorial office will secure and pay for any necessary permissions to use direct quotations, tables, or illustrations that are copyrighted elsewhere, but we ask that you indicate clearly the original sources. Please include a full citation in the figure legend or at the bottom of each table when it is taken from another source, and indicate clearly when you would like us to obtain permissions. If you obtain permissions yourself, please send photocopies of them for our files.
**Informed Consent**

*Continuum* adheres to the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) standards regarding informed consent as specified in II.E.1. of its Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals: Writing and Editing for Biomedical Publication ([www.icmje.org/index.html](http://www.icmje.org/index.html)). Identifying information, including patients’ names, initials, hospital numbers, or facial features, should not be included in case reports or figures. If this information is essential for scientific purposes, you must submit written informed consent from the patient to the editorial office.

**Contact Information**

Please address any questions you have about writing for *Continuum* to Andrea Weiss, Executive Editor, [aweiss@aan.com](mailto:aweiss@aan.com) or (612) 928-6134, or Amanda Doering, Sr. Program Manager, at [adoering@aan.com](mailto:adoering@aan.com) or (612) 928-6095.

Thank you for writing for *Continuum.*