



APIC

Spreading knowledge.
Preventing infection.®

Updated June 2025

Information for Authors:

Editorial Policy

No prior publication

Prevention Strategist expects that the articles it publishes have not been previously published or released elsewhere before appearing in the magazine. This is a standard policy followed by most journals and magazines.

Copyrights/permissions

Material published in *Prevention Strategist* is covered by copyright. All rights are reserved under United States and international copyright and other laws and conventions. APIC will hold the copyright on the manuscript. Contributors represent and warrant all existing work they are using or providing for the manuscript is their original work and that they are the sole owners of the copyright of any such existing work they may use in the development of the manuscript.

Authors must sign a Contributor Agreement prior to publication of submission.

Industry/conflict of interest

Prevention Strategist is committed to publishing the highest quality infection prevention implementation science articles that are free from commercial influence. We welcome submissions from infection preventionists working in industry, provided the content is educational, evidence-based, and relevant to the field of infection prevention and control (IPC). Articles must be free of commercial promotion and may not reference or promote specific products, services, or company-specific information. Submissions should focus on advancing IPC knowledge and practice without marketing or sales intent. All articles are subject to editorial review and approval.

We will not accept articles from industry representatives or people writing on behalf of industry. We will not accept articles that mention the names of brand-name products. In other words, an article in *Prevention Strategist* is not a sales pitch or a direct-marketing device; articles submitted as such will not be published.

Peer review/publication process

Prevention Strategist employs a peer-review process to evaluate manuscripts for scientific accuracy, novelty, and significance. The editing process often involves revisions and ensures detailed reviewing for accuracy.

All manuscripts submitted to *Prevention Strategist* are subject to rigorous review. This review consists of the following steps:

1. Initial submissions are reviewed by managing editor for review of writing and adherence to editorial policy and guidelines. Submissions are shared with other internal APIC staff, as appropriate.
2. APIC internal staff determines if the manuscript is acceptable to send to the *Prevention Strategist* editorial panel for further review. If not, the managing editor will contact the author to let them know why the manuscript isn't going to be passed along (e.g., if clearly plagiarized, if promotional in nature, off-topic, etc.).
3. If manuscript meets quality control criteria, it will be sent to the *Prevention Strategist* editorial panel for review.
4. The panel advises the managing editor on whether the manuscript has been accepted for publication. After evaluation, the panel chooses between the following decisions:
 - Accept
 - Minor Revision
 - Major Revision
 - Reject
5. The managing editor will communicate the panel's decision, along with comments, questions, edits, and/or suggestions for improvement on behalf of the panel.
6. If the decision is Minor Revision or Major Revision, the author(s) may edit and resubmit the revised manuscript within a period of time set forth by the managing editor.
7. When the managing editor receives the revised manuscript, it is reviewed once again to ensure that the appropriate revisions were made. Depending on the extent of the revisions, it may or may not need to be re-reviewed by the panel.
8. Managing editor works with the author(s) to obtain photos and graphics as appropriate for inclusion with the manuscript.

Article Proposals and Ideas

Do you have an idea for an article? Submit your article for consideration via our [Prevention Strategist submission form](#). Be sure to include accompanying documents with data or statistics to back up the information or idea (as appropriate).

Sharing an article idea with APIC and the *Prevention Strategist* editorial panel *before* you write will help you make the article more effective, increase the likelihood of publication, and ultimately save you time.

Share your wisdom

- Let us know about interesting stories that you've heard from colleagues or speakers.
- Tell us how you or other infection preventionists you know have solved a problem using evidence-based research, created an initiative, applied an idea, or streamlined a process.

- Keep us informed of the topics that are most important to you as an infection preventionist.
- Tell us who would serve as an expert we could interview or ask to write the article.

Writing Guidelines and Tips

Write from your experience

- Your colleagues will benefit most from learning about how you solved a problem that they also face.
- Choose a topic you feel comfortable talking about. Think about recent challenges you have faced and science-based solutions you've applied.
- Note the highlights: the people/departments involved, the science involved, the time and resources available for a solution, and the tools or measures used to evaluate success.
- Include the barriers you faced in overcoming an infection prevention problem and the lessons learned along the way.
- Every healthcare organization is different, but many of their infection prevention challenges are the same. How does your story offer lessons that can be applied at other health settings?

Think practically

- Make your article as practical as possible. Include sufficient how-to information and examples to enable readers to apply your expertise to their situations in their healthcare organizations.
- Write to the IP in an informal tone.
- Keep sentences short and simple, use active verbs, and focus on the essentials readers need to follow your lead.

Style points

Write the article with a focus on translating **science into practice**. Avoid assuming the reader is familiar with the subject or the acronyms. Adopt a teaching approach when writing the article.

Give the reader information, tools and knowledge that they can take back to their practice setting and put to use. Your first step should be determining the purpose of your article and narrowing the focus.

- **Title of the article** – Craft a catchy title that clearly conveys the article's focus. Be creative, but make sure it's informative. Consider adding a subtitle for clarity.
- **Introduction** – Always include an introduction. Introduce the subject/problem in the first paragraph. You may want to consider including some interesting statistics in the overview to grab the reader's attention.

When writing your introduction, think to yourself, "How can I make the reader care about the subject?"

- **Body** – Present all the supporting evidence/information to support the subject in your introduction. Break each point/idea into separate paragraphs of 4-5 lines.

Consider using subheads to break up text. List out tips/other supporting information, if applicable. Always cite your sources and keep “science into practice” in mind throughout the body.

- **Conclusion** – Summarize key points of your article in the conclusion and insert a “call to action.”
- Include one to three sentences of **biographical information** for yourself **at the end of the article**: full name, designations, title, affiliation.

Length of article

The article should be 850-1,500 words in length. If a cover/feature article, it should be 1,750-2,100 words.

References

Place the reference list after the article body (at the end). References should be listed in the order in which they appear in the body copy.

Number references consecutively **in order of their mention in the text**; all references must be cited in the text.

- Key in the reference list at the end of the text.
- **Do not use your word processor's footnote or endnote feature to create references.**
- Do NOT cut-and-paste references from websites, PDFs, etc.
- Be sure to include “access date” in web citations.
- Use **superscript** when referencing a source/note number. The superscript note number should be placed at the end of the sentence after the period.
(Example: In nursing homes, Dysphasia is reported in 50 to 75 percent of residents, where half will aspirate, and one-third will develop pneumonia.²)

Personal communications and unpublished data should be cited in the text in parentheses; they should not appear in the reference list.

Examples of references (List all authors and/or editors up to 3; if more than 3, list the first 3 followed by “et al.” Note: Journal references should include the issue number in parentheses after the volume number.):

Format for Print Journal Articles:

Author(s). Article title. *Journal Title Abbreviation*. Year of publication;volume(issue):pages.

Steed C, Kelly JW, Blackhurst D, et al. Hospital hand hygiene opportunities: Where and when (HOW2)? The HOW2 Benchmark Study. *Am J Infect Control* 2011;39(1):19-26.

Format for online-only journal articles—Basic format:

Author(s). Article Title. *Journal Title Abbreviation*. Year of publication;volume(issue):page numbers. URL. Published/updated/accessed date.

Marreiros HF, Loff C, Calado E. Osteoporosis in pediatric patients with spina bifida. *J Spinal Cord Med*. 2012; 35(1):9-21.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22330186>. Accessed March 2012.

Format for online-only journal articles—DOI Number format: Author(s).
Article Title. *Journal Title Abbreviation*. Year of publication;volume(issue):pages.
doi.

Kew KM, Cates CJ. Remote versus face-to-face check-ups for asthma. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev*. 2016;(4):CD011715.
doi:10.1002/14651858.CD011715.pub2.

Format for Books:

Author(s). *Title of Book*. Edition number (if beyond first). City, state of
publication: publisher name; year of publication.

Catalano JT. *Nursing Now: Today's Issues, Tomorrow's Trends*. 3rd ed. Philadelphia, PA:
F.A. Davis Co.; 2003.

Format for Book Chapters:

Chapter author(s). Chapter title. In: Editor's Name, ed. *Title of Book: Subtitle of book*.
Edition number (if beyond first). Place of Publication: Publisher; Year of
publication:pages.

Solensky R. Drug allergy: desensitization and treatment of reactions to
antibiotics and aspirin. In: Lockey P, ed. *Allergens and Allergen Immunotherapy*.
3rd ed. New York, NY: Marcel Dekker; 2004:585-606.

Format for Website:

Author(s). Title of the specific item cited (if none is given, use the name of the
organization responsible for the site). Name of the website. URL.
Published/Updated month/year. Accessed month/year.

2019 Medicare Advantage and Part D Advance Notice Part II and Draft Call
Letter. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.
<https://www.cms.gov/Newsroom/MediaReleaseDatabase/Fact-sheets/2018-Fact-sheets-items/2018-02-01.html>. Updated February 2018. Accessed March
2018.

Journal abbreviations source

Journal names should be abbreviated according to the list of title word abbreviations:
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nlmcatalog/journals> or <http://www.issn.org/2-22661-LTWA-online.php>.

Abbreviations for frequently referenced journals (not exhaustive)

Am J Crit Care Am J Emerg Med
Am J Infect Control Am J Med
Am J Public Health Am J Surg

Ann Intern Med AORN J
Bone Marrow Transplant Clin Infect Dis
Crit Care Nurs Clin North Am Emerg Infect Dis
Geriatr Nurs
Infect Control Hosp Epidemiol Infect Dis Clin North Am
JAMA
J Am Coll Surg
J Am Med Dir Assoc J Clin Microbiol
J Gen Intern Med J Infect Dis
J Intern Med
J Wound Ostomy Continence Nurs Lancet
Lancet Infect Dis Mayo Clin Proc
MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep MMWR Recomm Rep
N Engl J Med

Copyrighted material and informed consent

Direct quotations, tables, or illustrations from copyrighted material must be accompanied by written permission for their use from the copyright owner and original author, along with complete information as to source.

Formatting

- Font: Calibri or Arial
- **Do NOT cut-and-paste from pdfs, websites, PowerPoint presentations, Excel sheets, etc. Cut-and-paste should only be used with text from Word documents.** Cutting-and-pasting from other types of documents creates major formatting problems.
- Use a “hard return” only to end a paragraph or for titles, headings, separate items in a list, etc. Rely on the word processor's word wrap (“soft return”) for all other line endings. A hard return results from tapping the “Enter” key on the keyboard.
- Do not right justify or center text or heads.
- Use only one space after colons and periods.
- Use the default hyphenation of your word processor. Use 2 hyphens for long dashes.
- **Key in the reference list at the end of the text. Do not use your word processor's footnote or endnote feature to create references. Do NOT cut-and-paste references from websites, PDFs, etc.**
- Use the table format or use only tables, not spaces, to align columns in preparing tables. Submit tables as separate files.
- Save the text of the article, along with references and figure legends, as one file. Save each table as a separate file.

Graphics

All graphics should be submitted in electronic format. Images should be provided in EPS or TIF format. Graphics software (such as Photoshop and Illustrator), **not** presentation software (such as PowerPoint, CorelDraw, or Harvard Graphics), should be used in the creation of the art.

- Color images need to be CMYK, 300 DPI (70 KB) or higher.
- If figures, images, or tables (or data therein) are taken from previously copyrighted material, the legends must give full credit to the original source.
- Please note that when submitting images, a caption identifying the contents of the image should be included with your article. All persons in a photo should be identified with their full names and credentials whenever possible.
- Legends should be typed on a separate page of the main manuscript file, be labeled “figure legends,” and include enough information to allow figures to be interpreted without reference to the text.
- If a figure has more than 1 part, label as A, B, C, etc. using uppercase letters; in the legend, present as "Figure 1. A... B..." If either figures or tables (or data therein) are taken from previously copyrighted material, the legends must give full credit to the original source.