Dates

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Standard date format

Cochrane documents always use this format and sequence for dates:

- day (numeral) month (always in full) year (four-digit numeral)

No additional punctuation or suffixes should be used.

Regional considerations

There are regional differences in the ways dates are expressed. Always use the standard format in Cochrane documents.

Be careful when referring to seasons, as they occur at different times of the year in different parts of the world.

Decades and centuries

Decades are always expressed as numerals, and century numbers may be expressed as numerals or written in full (e.g. '19th century' or 'nineteenth century').

Examples of formatting of dates and time periods

Note: the date formats in the examples below are for use in the text of Cochrane documents. Date formats to be used in references are described in the References.

Correct	Incorrect
1 May	May 1
1 May 2000	May 1 2000 or May 1, 2000
May 2000	—
7 November	7/11 (UK = 7 November; USA = 11 July)
1960s	1960's or '60s
19th century or nineteenth century	19th century