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Overview

The US National Library of Medicine (NLM)'s [Citing Medicine](#) is a useful resource that covers a wide range of referencing specificities. It is largely compatible with Cochrane style.

For certain [reference types](#), [reference fields](#), and [formatting details](#), Cochrane style differs from *Citing Medicine*, and authors should stick to recommendations in the Cochrane Style Manual. These differences are listed below.

There are some [useful sections in *Citing Medicine*](#) that may be helpful for handling non-standard reference types or other aspects not specified by the Cochrane Style Manual.

Reference types

Reference types for which authors should follow the Cochrane Style Manual regardless of recommendations from *Citing Medicine*:

- Cochrane documents;
- letters, emails, and personal communication;
- computer programs;
- ongoing studies;
- publications on the Internet.

Reference fields

This table gives details of reference fields for which authors should follow Cochrane Style Manual regardless of recommendations from *Citing Medicine*.

	Cochrane Style Manual (correct)	<i>Citing Medicine</i> (incorrect)
Authors	<p>Only the first six should be listed, and followed by 'et al' as described in Reference fields.</p> <p>Note: when entering information in the Cochrane Register of Studies (CRS), it is preferable to enter as many authors as possible.</p>	<i>Citing Medicine</i> asks for all authors to be listed.
Date of publication	<p>When entering a date in Review Manager 5 (RevMan 5), include only the year of publication for most references types.</p> <p>Note: except for conference proceedings event dates, newspaper articles, websites, and correspondence.</p> <p>Note: when entering references in the Cochrane Register of Studies (CRS), month - and even day of publication - can be entered when available.</p>	<i>Citing Medicine</i> recommends including the month and day of the publication date.
	In Cochrane Reviews and protocols, only write '(in press)' without writing the expected date of publication.	When a study is in press, <i>Citing Medicine</i> recommends writing the publication date as 'forthcoming YYYY' where YYYY is the year of expected publication.
	If the article is an electronic publication ahead of print, add the date of electronic publication followed by '[Epub ahead of print]'. If the article is now fully published, do not add '[Epub ahead of print]' and simply enter the year the article was published.	For publications that are published, but were available online before publication (i.e. electronic publication (Epub)), <i>Citing Medicine</i> recommends writing both the date of electronic publication and the full date of publication.
City and country of publication	Write country names in full, except for countries listed in the table Common abbreviations that do not need to be defined (i.e. UK, USA).	<i>Citing Medicine</i> permits country names to be written in full (e.g. Germany), or international abbreviations to be used (e.g. DE).
Journal names	Journal names should always be written in full and selected from the journal pick list.	<i>Citing Medicine</i> asks for journal names to be written in the abbreviated form (e.g. Proc Natl Acad Sci USA).

Formatting differences

There are some differences between the styles of Cochrane and *Citing Medicine*, due to software limitations, or to promote consistency across different reference types.

	Cochrane Style Manual (correct)	<i>Citing Medicine</i> (incorrect)
Edition and editors of books	editor(s) editor(s)	editor editors
	edition	ed.
Punctuation between year of publication and journal or publisher	Oxford University Press, 2013	Oxford University Press; 2013
	Lancet 2012;377:783-4	Lancet. 2012;377:783-4
Page numbers in book chapters and	Oxford University Press, 2013:21-30	Oxford University Press; 2013. p. 21-30

conference proceedings		
Presentation of original and translated titles in non-English articles	New nifedipine preparation makes single daily dose possible [Neue Nifedipin-Zubereitung ermöglicht tagliche Einmalgabe]. Fortschritte der Medizin 1997;115(33):54.	Neue Nifedipin-Zubereitung ermöglicht tagliche Einmalgabe [New nifedipine preparation makes single daily dose possible]. Fortschr Med. 1997;115(33):54. German.

Useful sections in *Citing Medicine*

This table lists some useful sections in *Citing Medicine* that offer additional guidance.

Topic	Summary of <i>Citing Medicine</i> guidance	<i>Citing Medicine</i> sections
Citing websites without titles	If no title can be determined, construct a title with the first words present on the page.	Chapter 25. Web sites. Box 15: Determining the title
Missing page numbers	In general for online journals, use the pagination written on the PDF article including any added letter (e.g. 1-18 or e34-7). For missing page numbers, count the average number of pages or screens, and place the number in square brackets followed by 'p.' (e.g. [3 p.]).	Chapter 23. Journals on the Internet. Location (Pagination) for Journal Articles on the Internet Chapter 23. Journals on the Internet. Box 54. No numbers appear on the pages of the article Chapter 25. Web sites. Box 83. No page numbers appear on the pages of the part
Journal with changing names (e.g. <i>British Medical Journal</i> to <i>BMJ</i>)	Use the name of the journal at the time of the first publication of the article cited (e.g. write ' <i>British Medical Journal</i> ' for a paper of 1983, but ' <i>BMJ</i> ' for a paper of 2013). Note: do not abbreviate the journal titles. See section on reference fields above and the general section on Reference fields .	Chapter 1. Journal Titles for Journal Articles
Ambiguities with names and surnames	Capitalize surnames according to how they appear in the original article cited.	Chapter 1. Journals. Author for Journal Title Chapter 1. Journals. Box 1. Surnames with hyphens and other punctuation in them Chapter 1. Journals. Box 3. Given names containing punctuation, a prefix, a preposition, or particle Chapter 1. Journals. Box 5. Designations of rank in a family, such as Jr and III
Citing references with errata or articles that have been retracted	Add the phrases 'Erratum in:', 'Erratum for:', 'Retraction in:', or 'Retraction of:', depending on the case, and follow it by 'Name of the journal YYYY; volume(issue):pages'. All this information should be entered in the 'Pages' reference field in RevMan 5.	Chapter 1. Journals. Box 58. Errata Chapter 1. Journals. Box 59. Retractions

Discontinuous page numbering	Write the ranges of the pagination of the article, separated by a comma. If there are more than three ranges, follow the third page range by the mention 'passim' (e.g. '3, 6-8', but '1-3, 6, 8-15 passim').	Chapter 1. Journals. Box 53. Discontinuous page numbers
Dates crossing months in conference proceedings	Write the date format as follows 'YYYY Month DD-Month DD' (e.g. '2014 February 23-March 2').	Chapter 3. Conference publications. Box 24. Dates cross months