

Instructions to Assessors

Thank you for agreeing to referee this paper for us. We would be very grateful if you would address the following points:

1. **Style and appearance of article**

The article should conform to the usual *Advances in Psychiatric Treatment* style. There should be an emphasis on clear headings, bullet points, boxes, diagrams, illustrations, tables and other aide-memoires. You do not have to supply these, but it would be helpful if you would make recommendations as to where they should go and in what format.

2. **Structure**

Is there a concluding paragraph, and if not should there be?

The Editorial Assistant should check for the abstract, biography, declaration of interest and five MCQs before this reaches you.

3. **Educational content**

Is the paper educational?

4. **Clinically relevant**

Has the author made the paper clinically relevant, e.g. by inclusion of case vignettes?

5. **Five MCQs**

All papers should have five MCQs, each with five options (a-e). For each MCQ, one option must be true, four options must be false. Alternatively, three EMIs may be used instead. (see the Instructions to Authors). These should be answerable from the text

The format of the questions will be checked by the Editorial Assistant; we would like you please to check that the questions are relevant and reasonable.

6. **References and statistics**

APT's purpose is further education, not original research:

- If the number of references exceeds 35 or so, and/or if multiple references (3 or more) are cited after points in the text, please comment on whether they are all necessary.
- Key references, or one review article that covers all of the relevant references, are preferred.
- If lots of statistics/data (percentages, confidence intervals, etc) shown, are they necessary? It is often better to interpret data than to list them.

7. **Length**

The article can be shorter or longer than the suggested length as long as it is not flabby. We hope to be able to tell you, when you receive the article, how it stands in respect of length. If it is too short, please identify areas which could be expanded upon, or new aspects which could be included. If it is too long, please indicate which sections should be shortened or cut.

It is difficult to be prescriptive, but as an assessor you are being asked to validate the accuracy of academic content of the article, to assess the style and suggest improvements, to check the overall length and to make recommendations on illustrations, headings, bullet points, MCQs, etc.

Academic quality is clearly crucial. The article must be informative and well reasoned. It should represent sensible opinion. Where there is controversy, this should be acknowledged. Ideally an article should both be a digest of many opinions on a subject and also give a clear lead as to what, in the author's opinion, would be good practice.