

Instructions for Authors sending research papers

Health economics is concerned with issues related to efficiency, effectiveness, value and behavior in the production, distribution and consumption of health goods and services. The Health Economics Journal (Revista de Economía de la Salud, AES, Chile) is published online twice per year. It aims at providing a forum for publishing high quality research, for a wide audience of health economics researchers, analysts and policy makers. AES publishes articles on all aspects included in health economics: theoretical contributions, empirical studies and analyses of health policy. Its scope includes: production and supply, demand, utilization and financing of health services; determinants of health, its definition and valuation, including investments in health and risky health behaviours; economic consequences of ill-health; behavioural models of demand and supply; evaluation of policy interventions; efficiency and distributional aspects of health policy; planning and market mechanisms; micro-economic evaluation of individual procedures and treatments; and evaluation of the performance of health care systems and health care technologies among others.

AES-Chile has a double-blinded peer-review policy, accepting original work in Spanish, Portuguese and English. Submissions to the editorial committee should contain unpublished work. It should not be under consideration for publication elsewhere. Publication of author's own work should be properly referenced in the paper; plagiarism is not accepted. Authors should let editors know, at the time of submission, whether a paper's contents has been disseminated in any manner so that the editors can determine whether to proceed with the review process.

To increase the opportunities of your paper to be accepted, should have a primarily focus on one or more LAC countries and comply with the instructions presented below.

Should you require any assistance in submitting your article or have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the editorial office at revistaecosal@aes-chile.cl.

Research

Manuscripts can contain e.g. case studies, primary research that is likely to change policy or thinking. These include e.g. interventional clinical trials, observational studies, modelling, and systematic reviews ideally with meta-analyses. It can also present a new hypothesis, scientifically plausible to stimulate research, or an analysis making an argument supported with evidence base and data. Papers should be a maximum of 3,000 words, excluding tables and figures/diagrams.

Format and style

The manuscript will generally display sections: Title page, Abstract, Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion, Conclusion, Acknowledgements, and References. Tables and Figures should not be placed within the text, rather provided in separate file/s.

To improve the possibilities of being accepted write clear, concise and in an accessible way for non-experts on the subjects presented. It is important to avoid jargon. Specialised terminology and references to organisations or practices that are specific to one country need to be explained.

Authors should ensure a consistency on the way references are made throughout the manuscript. AES-Chile prefers references to be endnotes.

The manuscript should use Word as processing program (.doc, .docx). Use a minimum font size of 11, double-spaced and paginated throughout including references with margins of at least 2.5 cm. The text should be left justified. The place of tables and figures should be properly indicated in the text.

Up to 6 tables, graphs, figures, and illustrations can be integrated in total. Tables and figures should be prepared in excel (.xls, .xlsx) and provided as a separate file for each table and figure. Each table, graph or figure should include title, footnotes and source. Figures should be sent in TIF format, with a resolution of 600 dpi. Use the dot to separate thousands (three thousand five hundred, 3.500) and a comma to separate decimals (zero comma zero five, 0,05).

Avoid acronyms and abbreviations unless they are universally recognised. Non-standard abbreviations should be defined at the first occurrence and introduced only where multiple use is made. Authors should not use abbreviations in headings.

Manuscript Preparation

File 1: Title page file.

This file should include the following elements:

- Title - concise to reflect the subject matter and to encapsulate the article's central message.
- Corresponding author's name, address and e-mail address and each author's affiliation, qualifications and e-mail address. All persons designated as authors should qualify for authorship and should have participated sufficiently in the work to take public responsibility for the content. The order of authorship should be a joint decision of the co-authors.
- Keywords and key messages, detailing the main points made in the paper
- Acknowledgement of contributors not authors and sources of funding. Details of funding sources should make explicit the full official funding agency name and grant numbers.
- A word count of the full article.

File 2: Abstract.

Abstracts should be 250- 350 words. Abstracts should be a reflection of the paper and can include the following sections, with or without headings.

- Objectives - a statement of the main aim of the study and/or the major hypothesis tested, or research question posed
- Design or methodology - including type of study
- Setting - if appropriate, include the location in the health system; number of participating centres; geographical location, selection criteria, inclusion and exclusion criteria.
- Interventions - if appropriate, what, how, when and for how long, and include outcome measures
- Results - main results. If relevant, for quantitative studies 95% confidence intervals and statistical significance.
- Discussion – include a reflection of results in light of the problem under analysis and the existing results in literature, as well as weaknesses.
- Conclusions - primary conclusions and their implications, suggesting areas for further research if appropriate.
- Abstracts do not need references.

The file should include 2 to 4 key messages, summing up the main conclusions and to indicate which is the contribution of the paper in light of literature review.

File 3: The Manuscript file

This file must include the body of the text and can be broken up under subheadings that provide a logical narrative structure. The evidence on which key statements are based should be explicit and referenced. Evidence source and their strength be indicated e.g. published trials, systematic reviews, observational studies, expert opinion, etc. Articles should present a balanced look at the evidence rather than selectively citing what supports a particular view. Moreover, it should include at least 50 percent of the references related to the last 5 years, or to justify their omission.

- The Introduction should begin with a brief paragraph that captures readers' attention and explains the aim. It should state the purpose of the investigation and give a short review of the pertinent literature.
- The Materials and methods section should follow the Introduction and should provide enough information to permit repetition of the work.
- The Results section should describe the outcome of the study. Data should be presented as concise as possible, if appropriate in the form of tables or figures, although very large tables should be avoided. Reporting guidelines promote clear reporting of methods and results to allow critical appraisal of the manuscript. When relevant, please consider:
 - For observational studies, use the STROBE checklist and any appropriate STROBE extensions.
 - For economic evaluation studies, use CHEERS.
 - For systematic reviews use PRISMA
 - For clinical trials use CONSORT
 - For studies developing, validating or updating a prediction models, use TRIPOD.

When you write in Spanish, these guidelines are found at <https://www.equator-network.org/library/spanish-resources-recursos-en-espanol/traduccion-de-guias-para-informar-y-publicar-sobre-investigaciones/#Espanol>

For the reporting of statistical analyses please consider the following additional points:

- Focus the statistical analysis at the research question.
- Provide information about participation and missing data.
- As much as possible, describe results using meaningful phrases (e.g., do not say "beta" or "regression coefficient", but "mean change in Y per unit of X"). Provide 95% confidence intervals for estimates.
- Report the proportions as N (%), not just %.
- Report P values with 2 digits after the decimal, 3 digits if <0,01 or near 0,05 (e.g., 0,54, 0,03, 0,007, <0,001, 0,048). Do not report P values greater than 0,05 as "NS, not significant".
- If convenient, report statistical tests (such as chi-2, T, F, etc.).
- The Discussion should be a concise interpretation of the results and their significance with reference to work by other authors. Weaknesses, limitations and strengths should be explicitly discussed. In the first paragraph of the discussion present the main finding which should answer the research question or solve the hypothesis. Present one or two secondary findings, contextualise all results with the existing literature. Strengths and limitations should be presented and consider an explanation and how this affects the results. Give an idea on the usefulness of the findings for public policy, in clinical practice or in other uses that can be detected by researchers.
- Highlight the conclusions and their implications and suggested areas for further research if appropriate are expected.

Files of Boxes, tables and figures

Each box, table and figure should be presented in a separate file. Include tables, boxes, or illustrations to enhance the text and add to or substantiate key points made in the body of the article. Worked out examples that use specific methods under discussion can be included as additional boxes. Words in boxes and tables are excluded from the word count of the body of the text, but the additional material should be concise.

Paper submission

Attach a cover letter which is your opportunity to introduce your study to the editor, highlighting the most important findings and novelty. Please also include in the letter the following information:

- Details of previous publications from the same study - including in scientific abstracts or partial reports by the media at scientific meetings and in foreign language journals.
- Details of any previous publication of the same study in electronic form.
- Suggest a potential reviewer that you know to be an expert on the subject of your paper. And with whom you do not have a conflict of interest. Please provide name and contact details. We will review the candidate and will evaluate his pertinence.
- Attach a statement that all authors authorise the publication of the work.
- Attach a statement of each of the authors on conflicts of interest.
- in case you include partial of complete material already published in another journal, please attach the authorisation of the other journal for publication