Information for Authors

***The Lancet HIV* is an exclusively online journal dedicated to publishing original research that advocates change in, or illuminates, HIV clinical practice. We will publish translational, epidemiological, clinical, operational, and implementation studies. All original research judged eligible for consideration by the journal's editors will be peer-reviewed within 72 h and, if accepted, published online within 8 weeks from submission. The journal will also publish relevant commentary and correspondence. Wherever possible, figures and good quality photographs (colour or black and white) should be used to supplement and to enhance the text. We also welcome videos. Further details on the different sections of *The Lancet HIV*, and how to submit to the journal, are provided below. If you require further clarification, the journal's editorial staff will be pleased to help (email TheLancetHIV@lancet.com).**

Manuscripts must be solely the work of the author(s) stated, must not have been previously published elsewhere, and must not be under consideration by another journal. *The Lancet* journals are signatories of the Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing, and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals, issued by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE Recommendations) and to the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) code of conduct for editors. We follow COPE's guidelines.

Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing, and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals
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1. Covering letter
2. Manuscript including tables and panels
3. Figures
4. Author statement form (see next section)
5. Declaration of interests and source of funding statements (see next section)
6. In-press papers—one copy of each with acceptance letters
7. Protocols and CONSORT details for randomised controlled trials (see Articles)
8. We encourage disclosure of correspondence from other journals and reviewers, if previously submitted, and we might contact relevant editors of such journals
9. Research in context panel, for all primary research Articles

Statements, permissions, and signatures

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- At the end of the Methods section, under a subheading "Role of the funding source", authors must describe the role of the study sponsor(s), if any, in study design; in the collection, analysis, and interpretation of data; in the writing of the report; and in the decision to submit the paper for publication.
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- Conflicts of interest statements
- Statements of role, if any, of medical writer or editor
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Please ensure that anything you submit to *The Lancet HIV* follows the guidelines provided for each article type. For instruction on how to format the text of your paper, including tables, figures, panels, and references, please see our **Formatting guidelines.**

Red section (Articles)

Articles

- *The Lancet HIV* prioritises reports of original research that are likely to change clinical practice or thinking
- We invite submission of all clinical trials, whether phase 1, 2, 3, or 4. For phase 1 trials, we consider those of a novel

substance for a novel indication, if there is a strong or unexpected beneficial or adverse response, or a novel mechanism of action.
- We require the registration of all interventional trials, whether early or late phase, in a primary register that participates in WHO's International Clinical Trial Registry Platform (see *Lancet* 2007; **369:** 1909–11). We also encourage full public disclosure of the minimum 20-item trial registration dataset at the time of registration and before recruitment of the first participant (see *Lancet* 2006; **367:** 1631–35). The registry must be independent of for-profit interest.
- Reports of trials must conform to CONSORT 2010 guidelines and should be submitted with their protocols.
- All reports of randomised trials should include sections entitled Randomisation and masking and Outcomes, within the Methods section. Please refer to *The Lancet*'s formatting guidelines for randomised trials.
- Cluster-randomised trials must be reported according to CONSORT extended guidelines.
- Randomised trials that report harms must be described according to extended CONSORT guidelines.
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- We encourage the registration of all observational studies on a WHO-compliant registry (see *Lancet* 2010; **375:** 348).
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- To find reporting guidelines see: http://www.equator-network.org.

All Articles should, as relevant

- Be up to 3000 words (4500 for randomised controlled trials) with 30 references (the word count is for the manuscript text only).
- Include an abstract (semistructured summary), with five paragraphs (Background, Methods, Findings, Interpretation, and Funding), not exceeding 250 words. Our electronic submission system will ask you to copy and paste this section at the "Submit Abstract" stage.
- For randomised trials, the abstract should adhere to CONSORT extensions: abstracts (see *Lancet* 2008; **371:** 281–83).
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- Include any necessary additional data as part of your EES submission.
- All accepted Articles should include a link to the full study protocol published on the authors' institutional website (see *Lancet* 2009; **373:** 992 and *Lancet* 2010; **375:** 348).

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Research in context

Evidence before this study

This section should include a description of all the evidence that the authors considered before undertaking this study. Authors should briefly state: the sources (databases, journal or book reference lists, etc) searched; the criteria used to include or exclude studies (including the exact start and end dates of the search), which should not be limited to English language publications; the search terms used; the quality (risk of bias) of that evidence; and the pooled estimate derived from meta-analysis of the evidence, if appropriate.

Added value of this study

Authors should describe here how their findings add value to the existing evidence.

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Authors should state the implications for practice or policy and future research of their study combined with existing evidence.

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Blue section (Comment, Correspondence)

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- Editorials are the voice of *The Lancet HIV*, and are written in-house by the journal's editorial-writing team and signed "*The Lancet HIV*".

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- This section contains Comments that accompany papers published in *The Lancet HIV* or on issues of wide-reaching concern in HIV. Most are commissioned, but unsolicited Comments (no more than 700 words, 12 references, and one figure, panel, or small table) are also welcome. Comments may be peer reviewed.

MIAME guidelines
http://www.mged.org/Workgroups/MIAME/miame_checklist.html

WHO's International Clinical Trial Registry Platform
http://www.who.int/ictrp/network/trds/en/index.html

Array and GEO
http://www.ebi.ac.uk/microarray-as/ae/
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CONSORT extended guidelines
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http://www.equator-network.org

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- See **Conflicts of Interest** guidelines for comments.

Correspondence

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Formatting guidelines

Formatting guidelines for revised manuscripts

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