

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir,

We write on behalf of the UK Nutritional Epidemiology Group. This is an informal group of individuals in research institutes and academic departments involved in the measurement of dietary intake and in research into appropriate methodology for such measurement.

We value the quality of the editing in many journals that publish articles on nutrition. There are many occasions, however, when because of differences in editorial practice, it is difficult to make an informed interpretation of the results that are presented.

We are therefore proposing that a consistent standard of editing of articles on nutrition be widely adopted. To that end, we have drawn up a checklist of the information that we believe to be necessary if a dietary assessment method is to be adequately described. Without this information, the results of many dietary studies cannot be properly evaluated. The guidelines in full are being published in 1993 in the following journals:

British Journal of Nutrition 1993 (in press)

Metabolism 1993 22, 258–259

Journal of Nutrition 1993 (in press)

Australian Journal of Nutrition and Dietetics 1993

(in press)

Journal of Tropical Pediatrics 1993 (in press)

Acta Paediatrica 1993 (in press)

International Journal of Epidemiology 1993 (in press)

European Journal of Clinical Nutrition (in instructions to authors)

Journal of Human Nutrition and Dietetics 1993

(in press)

We suggest that authors consult the checklist prior to submitting papers for publication to ensure that their dietary methods are fully described. We would also recommend that where questionnaires are used, authors include in full any questionnaires used (even if much reduced in size) as an Appendix or give a reference if it has already been published. If publication is not practicable, we suggest that the authors be required to submit a copy of any questionnaire used for purposes of peer review.

Yours sincerely,

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