

LAB TESTS ONLINE (LTO)

Background and Editing Instructions

Applicable to Anatomical, Chemical, Genetics, Haematology, Oral Pathology and Microbiology Trainees.

There are several types of tasks available for registrars. The main tasks are:

1. Reviewing articles that are already on the site. LTO Australasia is accredited by the Health on the Net organization (HONCode). A requirement of accreditation is that all articles be reviewed for accuracy and currency at least every three years. We are engaged in that process currently. (See below).
2. Editing articles that have already been written for the LTO USA or UK sites and making them suitable for inclusion on the LTO Australasia site. (See attachment).
3. Writing new articles for LTO Australasia from scratch. These may be for either the Tests database or the Conditions/Diseases database. (See attachment).
4. Finding news items about pathology in Australia that may be of interest to the public.

The first three of these tasks are particularly valuable to registrars. While the target audience is the general public, the work is not trivial. To edit or create an article about either testing or a disease, the registrar needs to have a comprehensive knowledge of the subject and current practice. If they are editing an article produced for the US or UK sites they also need to know how pathology practice in Australia differs from that in the US and UK.

In the creation of a new article it is essential that the registrar provide references for the sources of their information. In reviewing or editing existing articles it is highly desirable that they also provide references to substantiate any significant changes they make.

The English language sites are all accredited by the Health on the Net Foundation (HONCode). If you are interested their website is at: <http://www.hon.ch/>. We are required to review all information on the site at least once every three years. The review process you use is up to you but I would suggest that you read and compare the LTO US version of the article since the US site has been up longer and all content on the site has been reviewed at least once so it is likely to be more up to date. If you make any substantial changes to the information on our site it is highly desirable to attach a reference to substantiate the change as this is a HONCode requirement. While we don't post the references on the site like the US model we do retain them.

EDITING US OR UK ARTICLES FOR LAB TESTS ONLINE AUSTRALASIA.

We aim to have consistency across entries in the TESTS and CONDITIONS/DISEASES databases.

At this stage most entries are produced by taking existing entries from either the LTO US, or LTO UK sites and editing them to suit Australian conditions. We have permission to take any material from either site.

All editing is done using MS Word in Word 97-2003 format with the Track Changes function ON.

Currently it is easier to get an existing TEST article into Word format. Go to the US or UK site and open the TEST article. Click on the "print this article" link near the top right of the page. This will then open the entire article in a new window. Copy the entire article and paste it into Word. Turn Track Changes ON and get to work.

Editing existing CONDITIONS/DISEASES articles. Go to the US or UK site and open the CONDITIONS article. The "print this page" is not helpful. Instead you have to copy the article page by page into Word. It is best if you can avoid copying the links on either side of the article. This can be achieved by copying just the article heading first and pasting it into a blank Word page. Then carefully select the text only on the page down to the "next" link at the bottom avoiding selecting the links to the left and right of the text at the top of the page. Paste this into your Word document. Copy the text from subsequent pages in the same manner until you have all the article in Word. Turn Track Changes ON before editing.

We want to substitute US or UK specific statistics, procedures or references with roughly equivalent Australian material if you can find it, otherwise delete it. Check for factual errors and typographical errors.

Note that the American articles have a list of sources used at the end of each entry. We are keeping our references offline so this can be deleted. However, if you use new articles in introducing changes then append these references at the end of the article and we will retain them offline.

We also want to replace the external links at the end of each article with Australian links if they are available. Look at other similar articles on the Australian site to see the types of sites we are linking to. Links can only be to trustworthy non-commercial sites or rarely to HONcode-accredited commercial sites.

CREATING NEW ARTICLES FROM SCRATCH.

If you are creating a new article then please use the same format as existing articles. Note that TEST articles almost all follow a standard format. CONDITIONS/DISEASES articles are not as uniform. Have a look at similar articles and use one of the existing formats.

If you have any questions please contact Bruce Campbell at:
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