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Detailed instructions to authors are available on request from the Editor or the publisher.

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Papers should be submitted in *triplicate* to Professor P O D Pharoah, Department of Public Health, University of Liverpool, PO Box 147, Liverpool L69 3BX, UK.

Details of the Journal format are given in a Leading Article in Volume 16 Number 1. Manuscripts should be prepared in the Vancouver Style (see eg *Br Med J* 1982; 284: 1768-76) and should be less than 3000 words. A summary of the findings should form part of the manuscript.

References should be in the order made in the text and numbered accordingly. These numbers should be inserted above the line on each occasion a reference is cited (...confirmed by other studies²³). Numbered references should appear at the end of the article and should consist of the surnames and initials of *all* authors when six or less, when seven or more list first three and add *et al*, title of article, name of journal abbreviated according to *Index Medicus* style, year, volume, first and last page numbers, e.g. Bull Q, Doe J. Epidemiology and public health. *Int J Epidemiol* 1970; 5: 702-10.

For books, names and initials of all authors, the full title, place of publication, publisher, year of publication and page number should be given.

All measures should be reported in SI units followed, in text, by traditional units in parentheses. For general guidance on the international System of Units and some useful conversion factors, see 'The SI for the Health Professions' (WHO, 1977).

There are two exceptions; blood pressure should be expressed in mm Hg and haemoglobin as g/dl.

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