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Editorial note

Supplements for *Thorax*

The *British Medical Journal* Publishing Group (which is the co-owner of *Thorax* with the British Thoracic Society) is willing to consider publishing supplements to the regular issues of *Thorax*. The British Thoracic Society executive committee has supported these proposals and has granted permission for *Thorax* to publish up to four supplements a year.

The purpose of these supplements would be to deal in depth with important or "hot" topics. They might also originate from a meeting on a particular topic organised by the editor or editorial board or a learned society. A sponsoring organisation, often a pharmaceutical company, that wishes to arrange a symposium may plan to have the proceedings published as a supplement. The venture of supplements has been successful in other journals, and we believe that this is a step forward for *Thorax*.

Supplements will be considered for publication only when their contents are unbiased and of educational value or a professional service to readers—that is, where the contents have quality and independence. No supplements that would be merely for promotional purposes will be considered. Papers will be considered for publication only if they deal with original work or review previous studies. Any supplement submitted will be subjected to editorial review by the editor of *Thorax* or an elected member of the editorial organisation.

An initial request to commission a supplement should always be either to the editor of *Thorax* or to the specialist journals publishing director of the *BMJ*.

STEPHEN SPIRO

Editor