**Biomedical Writing**

**Materials and Methods**

**How did you do it?**

**PRINCIPLES**

● Essentials:

Include all essentials of experimental design and procedures

Use headings to guide the reader

In general, move from broad to specific

Identify statistical methods, and software packages

Avoid use of brand names and jargon!

● How much detail to include?

Published method: identify procedure, give reference

Modification of published method: give reference and describe details of modification

New method: need full details

● Your account should be:

Repeatable

Unambiguous

Accurate and complete

Logically presented

**Studies involving patients – information to include**

**Study design**

Type of study (e.g. randomized control trial; cohort)

Dates of study, length of follow up

**Setting**

Type of health care setting (e.g. ambulatory care center of urban hospital, rural private practice

Geographical location (and / or specific name of health care setting, if appropriate

Other relevant details

**Subjects**

Clinical and sociodemographic features

Criteria for inclusion / exclusion

Number of patients: included and excluded, withdrawn or lost to follow up

Statement regarding informed consent

**Interventions**

Procedures and equipment

Drugs and other agents – source, dosage, method and duration of administration

Safely measures

Handling of treatment complications of adverse side effects

Methods of randomizing or blinding (masking)

Statement of approval by IRB

**Main outcome measures**

Units of analysis (e.g. eyes, patients)

Method of measurements

Specific definitions of outcomes)

**Statistical analysis**

Hypothesis to be tested, comparisons to be made

General type of analysis (e.g. multiple regression analysis)

Acceptable level of statistical significance

Computer software (and hardware, if appropriate) used

Datastick: BMW lectures: Biomedical Writing Materials and Methods.docx