Word for Word

Namely or not?

*Namely* is used to introduce a term or phrase that explains or offers details about something mentioned earlier in the sentence.

**Example:**
We studied the benefit of adding targeted agents, *namely*, bevacizumab and cetuximab, to standard chemotherapy. [*Namely* introduces a phrase that offers details about the targeted agents mentioned earlier in the sentence.]

However, *namely* is usually not needed. If a sentence is clear and easily understood without *namely*, we recommend removing the word.

**Examples:**
Original: Reviewers for the National Institutes of Health score proposals in terms of 5 core criteria, *namely*, significance, investigator(s), innovation, approach, and environment.
Revised: Reviewers for the National Institutes of Health score proposals in terms of 5 core criteria: significance, investigator(s), innovation, approach, and environment.

When you use *namely*, the word should be set off by commas.

**Examples:**
Incorrect: We explored a potential noninvasive alternative to tissue biopsy, *namely* analysis of circulating tumor DNA.
Correct: We explored a potential noninvasive alternative to tissue biopsy, *namely*, analysis of circulating tumor DNA.
Bibliography

--Stephanie Deming

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