

Ethical Guidelines for Authors

When you submit a paper to Inderscience Publishers, you are confirming that you have read these ethical guidelines, agree to the contents and have taken any appropriate actions.

Content

By submitting a paper to Inderscience Publishers, it is understood that all authors have thereby declared that they have read and agree on the content of the submitted paper.

Ethics

Submissions may be rejected by Inderscience Publishers Editorial Office if it is felt that the work was not carried out within an ethical framework for scholarly publications.

Inderscience Publishers adheres to the principles outlined by COPE – *Committee on Publication Ethics*.

[<https://publicationethics.org/>]

Conflicts of Interest and Informed Consent Declarations

Authors must make a declaration in their article concerning conflicts of interest and, when applicable, informed consent.

- Authors must disclose any competing interests, situations or connections (direct or indirect) that might have influenced the research reported in the article. Conflicts of interest can include personal relationships (i.e. friend, spouse, family member, current or previous mentor, adversary) with individuals involved in the submission or evaluation of a paper, such as authors, reviewers, editors or members of the editorial board; holding any kind of position on relevant boards; employment relationships; privileged access to data; collaborations with individuals or organisations related to the content of the article; grants received (from any source, restricted or unrestricted) by the authors from bodies with an interest in the study; relationships (paid or unpaid) with organisations and funding bodies including non-governmental organisations, research institutions or charities; any type of sponsorship, gifts, benefits, fees, stakes or royalties shared or received from individuals or organisations related to the content of the article; membership of lobbying or advocacy organisations; business, personal, legal, political, ideological, religious or academic interests or beliefs related to the paper's topic that may interfere with an unbiased publication process; etc.

If authors feel that they have nothing to disclose, they must still insert a statement, saying, "All authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest".

- Authors must include an informed consent declaration in their article if their research involved human participants. This is in accordance with the guidelines provided by COPE to publishers.

Informed consent is required for all research involving human participants in any way, even if the participants' data has been anonymised and the article does not include any potential identifiers. Participants, or their legal representatives, must have provided informed consent prior to enrolment in the research.

Authors need to indicate whether participants provided informed consent and whether consent was written or verbal (if consent was verbal, authors should indicate the reason why and how it was recorded). If an appropriate professional, ethical or legal organisation or agency has waived the need to obtain participants' consent, authors should disclose in their declaration the name of the organisation or agency and the reasons for the waiver.

In sum:

All articles, without exception, must include a Conflicts of Interest Declaration.

Articles drawing on research which involved human participants must include an Informed Consent Declaration as well.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism in any form constitutes a serious violation of the principles of scholarship and is not acceptable.

Examples of plagiarism include:

1. *Word-for-word copying* of portions of another's writing without enclosing the copied passage in quotation marks and acknowledging the source in the appropriate scholarly convention.
2. The use of a particularly *unique term or concept* without acknowledging the original author or source.
3. The *paraphrasing or abbreviated restatement* of someone else's ideas without acknowledging that another person's text has been the basis for the paraphrasing.
4. *False citation*: material should not be attributed to a source from which it has not been obtained.
5. *False data*: data that has been fabricated or altered in a laboratory or experiment; although not factually plagiarism, this is clearly a form of academic fraud.
6. *Unacknowledged multiple authors or collaboration*: the contributions of each author or collaborator should be made clear.
7. *Self-plagiarism/double submission*: the submission of the same or a very similar paper to two or more publications.

The use of AI technology

In line with COPE guidelines [[https://publicationethics.org/cope-position-statements/ai-author?ct=t\(member-insight-ai-feb-2023\)](https://publicationethics.org/cope-position-statements/ai-author?ct=t(member-insight-ai-feb-2023))], artificial intelligence tools (e.g. ChatGPT) cannot be listed as named authors on submitted articles. Authors are fully responsible for the content of their article, even those parts produced by any AI tool, and are thus liable for any inaccuracies or breach of publication ethics.

Authors who have used AI tools to develop their article and/or to write, generate or edit text must include a note in the article's Acknowledgements section describing the technologies used and their purpose.

Please note that this policy does not apply to software such as spelling or grammar checkers or reference managers. Authors using such tools do not need to include a note about them in the Acknowledgements section.

Medical research

Medical writers, or anyone else who assisted in the preparation of the paper, should be acknowledged in the paper, either as an author, or in the Acknowledgements section, as per the guidelines of the *International Committee of Medical Journal Editors*.

See section II. A. 2. Contributors Listed in Acknowledgments

[<https://www.emwa.org/Documents/Freelancer/manuscriptpublication/uniform%20requirements%20for%20manuscripts.pdf>].

From the *European Medical Writers Association* web site, Resources for Medical Writers section.

Medical writers should list their source of funding and/or employer as appropriate.

Experimental research on humans must have been approved by an appropriate ethics committee and comply with the *Helsinki Declaration (2013)*. [<https://www.wma.net/policies-post/wma-declaration-of-helsinki-ethical-principles-for-medical-research-involving-human-subjects/>]

Informed consent in medical research

Informed consent must be documented in your paper in cases where information or clinical photographs of human subjects are used. Signed copies of consent forms will be required before a paper can be considered for review.

Animal research

When reporting experiments on animals, authors should indicate whether the institutional and national guidelines for the care and use of laboratory animals were followed.

Sponsorship

Authors from pharmaceutical companies or other commercial organisations that sponsor clinical trials should comply with the good practice described by *The International Society for Medical Publication Professionals* at *GPP3 – Good Publication Practice for Communicating Company- Sponsored Medical Research*.

[<https://www.ismpp.org/gpp3>]

These guidelines also apply to companies or individuals that work on industry-sponsored publications, such as freelance writers, contract research organisations and communications companies.

End of document.