

# Publishing Ethics

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This journal follows the guidelines of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors ([www.icmje.org](http://www.icmje.org)), the Committee on Publication Ethics, COPE, ([www.publicationethics.org](http://www.publicationethics.org)) and the Proposals for Safeguarding Good Scientific Practice of the German Research Association, DFG, ([www.dfg.de](http://www.dfg.de)). Suspected cases of misconduct will be investigated using COPE flowcharts.

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All listed authors must have made substantial contributions to: (1) conception and design, acquisition of data and/or analysis/interpretation of data and (2) drafting and/or critical revision of the article for important intellectual content. (3) All listed authors must approve the version to be published and (4) agree to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

Authors should identify individuals who provide writing assistance and disclose the funding source for this assistance.

## Conflicts of Interest

All listed authors must disclose any and all financial and personal relationships with other people or organizations that may inappropriately influence or bias the objectivity of submitted content and/or its acceptance for publication in this journal. This disclosure must be included in the text of the manuscript and will be available to the peer reviewers. If the authors report no conflicts of interest, they must acknowledge as much, for example: "The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest in the research."

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All authors submitting manuscripts on research involving human subjects must indicate in the text of the manuscript that the procedures used have been reviewed in compliance with ethical standards of the responsible committee on human experimentation (institutional and/or national as pertinent) and with the World Medical Association Declaration of Helsinki on Ethical Principles for Medical Research Involving Human Subjects ([www.wma.net](http://www.wma.net)).

The research should adhere to the EU-Convention on the protection of animals used for scientific purpose (Revised Directive 86/609/EEC) and should follow the Author Guidelines on Animal Ethics and Welfare for Veterinary Journals of the International Association of Veterinary Editors, IAVE ([www.veteditors.org](http://www.veteditors.org)).

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Authors should avoid the use of names, initials, and hospital numbers of patients/volunteers. Patients/volunteers should not be recognisable from photographs unless their written permission has first been obtained. When informed consent has been obtained it should be indicated in the published article.

## Clinical Trial Registration

All submissions which report on new clinical trials should provide evidence that the trial is registered with one of the approved databases that is a primary register of the WHO International Clinical Trials Registry Platform (ICTRP, [www.who.int/ictcp/en](http://www.who.int/ictcp/en)) or in [ClinicalTrial.gov](http://ClinicalTrial.gov).

For publication, please refer to the Consolidated Standards of Reporting Trials, CONSORT, ([www.consort-statement.org](http://www.consort-statement.org)) for randomized trials, to STROBE ([www.strobe-statement.org](http://www.strobe-statement.org)) for observational studies, and to PRISMA ([www.prisma-statement.org](http://www.prisma-statement.org)) for reviews and meta-analyses. Good sources for reporting guidelines are the EQUATOR Network ([www.equator-network.org/home](http://www.equator-network.org/home)) and the NLM's Research Reporting Guidelines and Initiatives ([www.nlm.nih.gov/services/research\\_report\\_guide.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/services/research_report_guide.html)).

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