Ethical Guidelines for Authors Submitting Manuscripts to the journal Pharmaceutical Medicine

General

Adis journals endorse the 'Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals,' issued by the International Committee for Medical Journal Editors (see link below) and are members of the Committee on Publication Ethics (see link below).

www.icmje.org/urm_main.html
www.publicationethics.org

Conflict of interest

When an author or the institution of the author has a relationship, financial or otherwise, with individuals or organizations that could influence the author's work inappropriately, a conflict of interest may exist. Examples of potential conflicts of interest may include but are not limited to academic, personal, or political relationships; employment; consultancies or honoraria; and financial connections such as stock ownership and funding. Although an author may not feel that there are conflicts, disclosure of relationships and interests that could be viewed by others as conflicts of interest affords a more transparent and prudent process. All authors for Pharmaceutical Medicine must disclose any actual or potential conflict of interest. The Journal may publish such disclosures if judged to be important to readers.

Statement of Informed Consent

Patients have a right to privacy that should not be infringed without informed consent. Identifying information, including patients' names, initials, or hospital numbers, should not be published in written descriptions, photographs, and pedigrees unless the information is essential for scientific purposes and the patient (or parent or guardian) gives written informed consent for publication. Informed consent for this purpose requires that a patient who is identifiable be shown the manuscript to be published. Authors should identify Individuals who provide writing assistance and disclose the funding source for this assistance. Identifying details should be omitted if they are not essential. Complete anonymity is difficult to achieve, however, and informed consent should be obtained if there is any doubt. For example, masking the eye region in photographs of patients is inadequate protection of anonymity. If identifying characteristics are altered to protect anonymity, such as in genetic pedigrees, authors should provide assurance that alterations do not distort scientific meaning and editors should so note.

Human and Animal rights

When reporting experiments on human subjects, authors should indicate whether the procedures followed were in accordance with the ethical standards of the responsible committee on human experimentation (institutional and national) and with the Helsinki Declaration of 1975, as revised in 2000 (5). If doubt exists whether the research was conducted in accordance with the Helsinki Declaration, the authors must explain the rationale for their approach, and demonstrate that the institutional review body explicitly approved the doubtful aspects of the study. When reporting experiments on animals, authors should be asked to indicate whether the institutional and national guide for the care and use of laboratory animals was followed.

Ethics/Institutional Review Board Approval of Research

Authors should be able to submit, upon request, a statement from the research ethics committee or institutional review board indicating approval of the research. If the study was not submitted to a research ethics committee or institutional review board, authors may need to provide documentation to prove that not seeking review for the study was in accordance with the policy of your institution. Details of the ethical approval status of the research must be described in the methods section of the paper.

Health Research Reporting Guidelines

The journal requests that the reporting of studies follows current best practice and authors are advised to adhere to the appropriate health research reporting guideline for the type of research being submitted. The journal recommends that authors refer to the EQUATOR Network (see link below) for up-to-date information on all health research reporting guidelines. Specifically, randomised controlled trials should following the reporting guidelines specified in the CONSORT Statement (see link below). The appropriate extension to the CONSORT Statement should be referred to where relevant. Authors must provide a completed CONSORT flowchart/checklist. Purely observational studies should follow the reporting guidelines of STROBE. Authors must provide the relveant completed STROBE checklist (see link below).Systematic reviews, with or without a meta-analysis should follow the reporting guidelines of PRISMA. Authors must provide a completed PRISMA flowchart and checklist (see link below). Meta-analysis of observational studies in epidemiology should following the reporting guidelines of MOOSE. Authors must provide a completed MOOSE checklist (see link to the Equator Network below).

www.equator-network.org
www.consort-statement.org
www.strobe-statement.org
www.prisma-statement.org
www.equator-network.org/resource-centre

Clinical Trial Registration

The journal requires, as a condition of consideration of original clinical research for publication, prospective registration of clinical trials in a public trials registry before recruitment of any participants. This applies to trials which commenced after 1 July 2005: for older trials retrospective registration will be acceptable, but only if completed before submission of the manuscript to the journal. For the purpose of registration, the journal defines a clinical trial as “any research study that prospectively assigns human participants or groups of humans to one or more health-related interventions to evaluate the effects on health outcomes.” Health-related interventions include any intervention used to modify a biomedical or health-related outcome. Health outcomes include any biomedical or health-related measures obtained in patients or participants, including pharmacokinetic measures and adverse events. Authors should list the registration number the first time they use a trial acronym to refer to the trial they are reporting. Purely observational studies will not require registration.

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