

Publication Ethics and Malpractice Statement



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Publishing Guidelines

Touch Medical Media is committed to maintaining the highest level of integrity in the content published. Touch Medical Media requires all authors to adhere to the ethical standards as outlined by the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE), International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE), and World Association of Medical Editors (WAME).

Scientific Integrity

Editorial decisions are based on the relevance of a manuscript submitted to the journal and on the manuscript's originality, quality, and contribution to evidence about important questions. Decisions are not to be influenced by commercial interests, personal relationships or agendas. In addition, authors should submit for publication or otherwise make publicly available, and editors should not exclude from consideration for publication, studies with findings that are not statistically significant or that have inconclusive findings.

Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE)

Touch Medical Media follows the guidance outlined in [The Code of Conduct and Best Practice Guidelines for Journal Editors](#) for matters regarding publication ethics, including how to handle cases of research and publication misconduct. The publisher recommends all authors review the guidelines before submitting a manuscript to the journal.

International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE)

Touch Medical media follows the [Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing, and Publication of Scholarly work in Medical Journals](#) outlined by ICMJE. The publisher recommends that all authors review the guidelines before submitting a manuscript to the journal.

Duplicate Submissions and Publications

In keeping with publication practice it is deemed unethical for an author to submit the same, or a very similar, study to more than one journal at once. Duplicate submissions also include the submission of the same/similar manuscript in different languages to different journals. Touch Medical Media follow the guidance outlined by COPE regarding duplicate [submissions](#) and [published](#) articles.

Authors who choose to post their work on a preprint server should choose one that clearly identifies preprints as not peer-reviewed work and includes disclosures of authors' relationships and activities. It is the author's responsibility to inform a journal if the work has been previously posted on a preprint server, and to ensure preprints are amended to point readers to subsequent versions, including the final published article.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism refers to an author presenting the work of others as if it was their own without full acknowledgment. This includes directly copying a previously published piece without acknowledgment and duplicating significant portions of text from previously published work. Touch Medical Media use a plagiarism detection software and follow the guidelines outlined by COPE regarding cases of suspected plagiarism in [submitted](#) and [published](#) articles.

Research Misconduct

Touch Medical Media will identify and prevent the publication of papers where research misconduct has occurred. All allegations of research misconduct will be investigated.

Data Fabrication and Falsification

It is a violation of publication ethics to fabricate, falsify and manipulate data. Touch Medical Media follow the guidance outlined by COPE regarding fabricated data in [submitted](#) and [published](#) articles.

Retraction and Corrections

Touch Medical Media will issue corrections and retraction statements on published content where necessary.

Author Correction

Corrections may be published to correct important error(s) made by the author(s) that affects the scientific integrity of the published article, the publication record, or the reputation of the authors or the journal.

The journal will publish a correction notice as soon as possible detailing changes from and citing the original publication; the correction will be displayed on an electronic page that is included in an electronic Table of Contents. The new article version with details of the changes from the original version and the date(s) on which the changes were made will also be posted.

Retraction

An article may be retracted when the integrity of the published work is substantially undermined owing to errors in the conduct, analysis and/or reporting of the study, or errors serious enough to invalidate a paper's results and conclusions. Violation of publication or research ethics may also result in a study's retraction. The original article is marked as retracted but a PDF version remains available to readers, and the retraction statement is bi-directionally linked to the original published paper. Retraction statements will typically include a statement of assent or dissent from the authors.

Authorship

The role of the author is defined in the [Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing, and Publication of Scholarly work in Medical Journals](#). Authors are accountable for their contributions and should have confidence in the integrity of the contributions of their co-authors. Contributors who do not qualify as an author should be acknowledged in the relevant section. Authors should disclose all relevant conflicts of interest to the work under consideration and all funding sources. Touch Medical Media follow the guidance outlined by COPE regarding [authorship issues](#).

Compliance with Ethics Guidance

Authors of original contributions are asked to include a statement confirming that procedures were compliant with ethics guidelines and with patient consent. Touch Medical Media refer to the COPE guidance on [ethical issues](#) in cases of suspected ethical problems.

Note to Authors

Authors should carefully read and adhere to the ethical publication guidelines on duplicate publication, plagiarism, data fabrication/falsification and authorship before submitting a manuscript. Please refer to COPE, ICMJE and WAME for full guidelines and recommendations. Conflicts of interest and funding sources must be fully disclosed. Further details on how to construct the disclosure statement can be found in the journal Instructions for Authors.

Note to Reviewers

Reviewers must treat all manuscripts as confidential documents. Reviewers should critique the manuscript objectively and provide comments supported by evidence that the author can use to improve the paper. Invited reviewers who do not feel qualified should notify the editor of any concerns. Reviewers should declare all relevant conflicts of interest clearly, and decline to review articles where necessary. Guidance on the peer-review process can be found in the journal Information for Peer Reviewers. Reviewers should adhere to Instructions for Peer Reviewers.

Note to Editors

Editors should give unbiased consideration to each manuscript submitted for consideration for publication, but reserve the right to reject articles that are out of scope of the journal or are not recommended by the peer reviewers. Editors should be proactive and responsive to any ethical publishing issues that arise with submitted and published articles, referring to the guidance outlined by COPE when necessary.