

ETHICAL GUIDELINES FOR PUBLICATION IN THE SLOVENIAN NURSING REVIEW **ETIČNE SMERNICE ZA OBJAVO V OBZORNIKU ZDRAVSTVENE NEGE**

The publication of an article in a peer-reviewed journal is an essential building block in the development of a profession. Periodical literature is the most widely used manner of communication for an audience of professionals in the field since it is the most suitable mode of dissemination of research findings. It is a direct reflection of the quality of the work of the authors and the institutions that support them. Peer-reviewed articles support and embody the scientific method. It is therefore important to agree upon standards of expected ethical behaviour for all parties involved in the act of publishing: the author, the journal editors, the peer reviewers and the publisher of journals.

An important role of the publisher is to support the extensive efforts of journal editors and peer reviewers in ensuring the integrity of the scholarly record. Editorial board recognizes the responsibilities as the keeper of the guidelines it has adopted to support editors, reviewers and authors in performing their ethical duties.

Duties of Authors

Reporting standards

Authors of reports of original research should present an accurate account of the work performed as well as an objective discussion of its significance. Underlying data should be represented accurately in the paper. A paper should contain sufficient detail and references to permit others to replicate the work. Fraudulent or knowingly inaccurate statements constitute unethical behavior and are unacceptable. Review and professional publication articles should also be accurate and objective.

Data access and retention

Authors may be asked to provide the raw data in connection with a paper for editorial review, and should be prepared to provide public access to such data (e.g. survey questionnaire) and should in any event be prepared to retain such data for five years after publication.

Originality and plagiarism

The authors should ensure that they have written entirely original works, and if the authors have used the work and/or words of others, that this has been appropriately cited or quoted.

Plagiarism takes many forms, from 'passing off' another's paper as the author's own paper, to copying or paraphrasing substantial parts of another's paper (without attribution), to claiming results from research conducted by others. Plagiarism in all its forms constitutes unethical publishing behavior and is unacceptable.

Multiple, redundant or concurrent publication

An author should not in general publish manuscripts describing essentially the same research in more than one journal or primary publication. Submitting the same manuscript to more than one journal concurrently constitutes unethical publishing behavior and is unacceptable. In general, an author should not submit for consideration in another journal a previously published paper. Publication of some kinds of articles (e.g. clinical guidelines, translations) in more than one journal is sometimes justifiable, provided certain conditions are met. The authors and editors of the journals concerned must agree to the secondary publication, which must reflect the same data and interpretation of the primary document. The primary reference must be cited in the secondary publication.

Slovenian Nursing Review

Acknowledgement of sources

Authors should cite publications that have been influential in determining the nature of the reported work. Information obtained privately, as in conversation, correspondence, or discussion with third parties, must not be used or reported without explicit, written permission from the source. Information obtained in the course of confidential services (e.g. minutes from legal or court proceedings), must not be used without the explicit written permission of the author of the work involved in these services. References must be cited in accordance with the editing guidelines.

Authorship of the paper

Authorship and co-authorship should be limited to those who have made a significant contribution to the conception, design, execution, interpretation of the reported study or to the writing of an article. Where there are others who have participated in certain substantive aspects of the research project, they should be acknowledged or listed as contributors. Manuscript is only submitted for publication when all co-authors have seen and approved the final version of the paper and have agreed to its submission for publication.

Hazards and human or animal subjects

If the work involves chemicals, procedures or equipment that have any unusual hazards inherent in their use, the author must clearly identify these in the manuscript. If the work involves the use of animal or human subjects, the author should ensure that the manuscript contains a statement that all procedures were performed in compliance with relevant laws and institutional guidelines and that the National Medical Ethics Committee of the Republic of Slovenia (NMEC) has approved them. Author should include a statement in the manuscript that informed consent was obtained for experimentation with human subjects. The privacy rights of human subjects must always be observed.

Disclosure and conflicts of interest

All authors should disclose in their manuscript any financial or other substantive conflict of interest that might be construed to influence the results or interpretation of their manuscript. All sources of financial support for the project should be disclosed. Potential conflicts of interest should be disclosed at the earliest stage possible.

Fundamental errors in published work

When an author discovers a significant error or inaccuracy in his/her own published work, it is the author's obligation to promptly notify the journal editor to correct the paper. If the editor or the publisher learns from a third party that a published work contains a significant error, it is the obligation of the editor and/or publisher to notify the author to promptly retract or correct the paper or provide evidence of the correctness of the original paper.

Duties of editors

Publication decisions

The editor of a peer-reviewed journal is responsible for deciding which of the articles submitted to the journal should be published. The validation of the work in question and its importance to researchers and readers must always drive such decisions. The editor may be guided by the policies of the journal's editorial board and constrained by such legal requirements as shall then be in force

Slovenian Nursing Review

regarding libel, copyright infringement and plagiarism. The editor may confer with other editors or reviewers or editorial board in making this decision.

Fair play

An editor should evaluate manuscripts for their intellectual content without regard to race, gender, sexual orientation, religious belief, ethnic origin, citizenship, political philosophy or the world view of the authors.

Confidentiality

The editor and other members of editorial board must not disclose any information about a submitted manuscript to anyone.

Disclosure and conflicts of interest

Unpublished materials disclosed in a submitted manuscript must not be used in an editor's own research without the express written consent of the author. Privileged information or ideas obtained through peer review must be kept confidential and not used for personal advantage. Editors should recuse themselves from considering manuscripts in which they have conflicts of interest (competitive, collaborative, or other relationships or connections with any of the authors, companies, or institutions connected to the papers). Editors should require all contributors to disclose relevant competing interests and publish corrections if competing interests are revealed after publication. If needed, other appropriate action should be taken, such as the publication of a retraction or expression of concern. The peer-review process is confidential and is the same for all the submitted manuscripts. Non-peer reviewed sections of their journal should be clearly identified.

Involvement and cooperation in investigations

An editor should take reasonably responsive measures when ethical complaints have been presented concerning a submitted manuscript or published paper. Such measures will generally include contacting the author of the manuscript or the relevant institutions and research bodies, and if the complaint is upheld, the publication of a correction, retraction, expression of concern, or other note, as may be relevant. Every reported act of unethical publishing behavior must be looked into, even if it is discovered years after publication.

For editors who require details on recommended actions for particular types of ethics complaints, please consult our [Publishing Ethics Resource Kit \(PERK\)](#)

Duties of reviewers

Contribution to editorial decisions

Peer review assists the editor in making editorial decisions and through the editorial communications with the author may also assist the author in improving the paper. Peer review is an essential component of formal scholarly communication, and lies at the heart of the scientific method.

Promptness

Any selected referee who feels unqualified to review the research reported in a manuscript or knows that its review in due time will be impossible should notify the editor and excuse himself from the review process.

Slovenian Nursing Review

Confidentiality

Any manuscripts received for review must be treated as confidential documents. They must not be shown to or discussed with others except as authorized by the editor.

Standards of objectivity

Reviews should be conducted objectively. Personal criticism of the author is inappropriate. Referees should express their views clearly with supporting arguments.

Acknowledgement of sources

Reviewers should identify relevant published work that has not been cited by the authors. A reviewer should also call to the editor's attention any substantial similarity or overlap between the manuscript under consideration and any other published paper of which they have personal knowledge.

Disclosure and conflict of interest

Unpublished materials disclosed in a submitted manuscript must not be used in a reviewer's own research without the express written consent of the author. Privileged information or ideas obtained through peer review must be kept confidential and not used for personal advantage. Reviewers should not consider manuscripts in which they might have any conflicts of interest.

Literature

Publishing ethics: ethical guidelines for journal publication, 2011. Available at: <http://www.elsevier.com/wps/find/authorsview.authors/rights?tab=3> [6. 12. 2011]

Publishing ethics resource kit (PERK), 2011. Available at: <http://www.elsevier.com/wps/find/editors.editors/Introduction> (6. 12. 2011).

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