

Code of Ethics



The Code of Ethics of the Journal of Military Medicine (JMM) reflects and conforms to the current guidelines of the COPE Committee on Publication Ethics (<http://publicationethics.org/resources/guidelines>) for an ethical approach to the publication of scientific work. The entire management of the journal is in line with the spirit of the COPE recommendations to take all possible measures against negligence and to ensure good ethical practice in the publication process. In particular, all parties involved – i.e., management, editorial board, editors, authors and reviewers – shall be aware of and share the following ethical principles.

Duties of management and editorial board

Decision about Publication

The Management is responsible for deciding whether to publish articles submitted to the Journal based on anonymous, single blind peer review by an expert reviewer (referee). In making its decisions, the Editorial Board will abide by the policies and editorial approach of the Journal. It will also abide by the policies on libel, copyright infringement and plagiarism.

Fairness and non-discrimination

The Editorial Board will make decisions solely based on the scientific merit, relevance and originality of the content of the article, without discrimination based on sex, race, gender, religion, ethnic origin, nationality, sexual orientation, gender identity, age or political orientation of the authors.

Confidentiality, Conflict of Interest and Prohibition of Use or Disclosure

The Editor-in-Chief and the Editorial Board agree not to disclose information about articles submitted for publication to anyone other than the author, the reviewers, and the publisher or printer, and agree not to use the contents of unpublished articles for their own research without the express written consent of the author. The journal uses a single-blind peer review process to ensure that submitted material remains strictly confidential during the review process. The editors select the referees based on competence and trust to ensure an appropriate assessment of the article for publication.

Responsibilities of the Editor

Resources provided by the editor

The editor provides the journal with adequate resources and expert advice (e.g. on graphic design, legal advice, etc.) to fulfil its role professionally and to enhance the quality of the journal. Similarly, the publisher provides resources to ensure that the journal maintains transparent and ethical processes.

Third party support

The publisher selects third-party support for the journal, such as a printer or advertising agent, through public tenders and regular contracts.

Obligations of authors of articles submitted to the journal

Scientific originality

The author guarantees that the article submitted for evaluation is scientifically unpublished, original and has not been submitted simultaneously to other journals, volumes or periodicals, except with the express consent of the management. If the article is to be published subsequently in other journals or volumes, the Journal of Military Medicine must be informed and give its consent, without prejudice to the express reference to publication in this journal. The author is also obliged to properly cite the texts used, in accordance with the editorial rules indicated for publication in the Journal, and verify that the work and/or words of other authors are properly paraphrased or quoted literally, with appropriate indication of the sources. Authors are required to abide by the editorial policy of the journal.

Anonymity of data

Authors will ensure that the data provided in their studies (especially original studies and case reports) are anonymised and are presented in such a way that individuals or groups cannot be identified. In special cases, the editors may request explicit consent for data processing and publication from the individuals involved in the study.

Amendments

The editors may ask the authors to make amendments – i.e., corrections or additions – they deem appropriate, even after the anonymous evaluation by the reviewers. In certain cases, the editors may bring the anonymous review to the attention of the author. Authors may make comments or objections, on which the Editorial Board will take a decision. The editors reserve the right to make purely editorial changes after the first proofreading in order to ensure reviews are homogeneous.

Authorship of the work

The authorship of the paper must be clearly stated. All those who have made a significant contribution to the preparation of the paper must be listed as co-authors. The contribution of others to certain stages of the research must also be explicitly acknowledged.

Conflict of interest

The author must have no conflict of interest that may influence the results of the study, nor his/her propositions or interpretations. The author must also declare any financial backers of the research or project that served as the basis for the article.

Correction of inaccuracies

If an author discovers a significant error or inaccuracy in one of his/her articles, he/she must inform the Journal immediately and provide all the necessary information to indicate the necessary changes at the end or in the appendix of the article. He/she must also correct the article in active cooperation with the editorial team, even if the management or editorial board of the journal has informed the author, except in the case a different agreement has been reached.

Responsibilities of Referees

Contribute to editorial decisions

Peer review is a process that helps the Journal's management to assess the scientific quality of submitted articles and also allows the author to improve his/her contribution.

Respect of deadlines

Reviewers who feel that they are inadequate or insufficiently qualified for the task of reviewing the research reported in the article, or who feel unable to review the article within the specified timeframe, must inform the Journal management as soon as possible and withdraw from the review process.

Fairness and objectivity

Peer review must be conducted fairly and objectively. Reviewers are asked to provide adequate and documented justification for their assessment of the article submitted to them. Any personal judgement about the author is inappropriate: criticising or personally insulting an author is not permitted. Comments must be technically well formulated and must not be construed as ideological criticism or, in any case, contain scientific-cultural assumptions of a personal nature.

Any statement, observation or argument should preferably be accompanied by a citation and/or documentation. The reviewer is requested to give precise bibliographical references to any basic works that the author has overlooked in the article. He/she should also point out any similarities or overlaps between the text read and other works of which he/she is aware. Based on these principles, the Journal of Military Medicine has equipped itself with a format that is sent to the relevant Referee.

Conflict of interest and disclosure

Articles received for review must be treated as confidential documents. They must not be shown to or discussed with anyone who has not been authorised by management in advance. Confidential information or advice received during the peer review process must be treated as fiduciary and confidential: it must not be used for personal gain. Reviewers are required not to accept for review articles in which a conflict of interest arises due to previous specific collaborative or competitive relationships with the author (unknown per se, but in any case identifiable by deduction) and/or connections with the authors, bodies or institutions associated with the article.

Copyright

The JMM Editorial Team will ask the authors to sign a declaration of transfer of copyright to the JMM (https://www.difesa.it/assets/allegati/26694/dichiarazione_sostitutiva_di_certificazione.pdf). For resale or distribution outside the institution, and all other derivative works, including compilations and translations, require permission from the publisher. If excerpts from other copyrighted works are included, authors must obtain written permission from the copyright owners and cite the source in the article.

Methods of managing practices contrary to scientific integrity and policies for supervising the ethical aspects of research practices

According to the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity of 2023, developed by the All European Academies - ALLEA, among the main practices contrary to scientific integrity are the manufacture and falsification of research data and plagiarism (i.e. reproduction from already published works without quotation marks and/or mention of the source). Regardless of any provisions in the civil, criminal and administrative-accounting fields, incorrect conduct and violations of good research practice are to be considered violations of the Code of Ethics of the Journal of Military Medicine.

Anyone who detects the existence of incorrect behavior in the research activity for which a member of the editorial bodies, an Author or Reviewer or, in any case, a person who, in any capacity, operates within the JMM is responsible, must report the factual circumstances, accompanied by appropriate feedback, to the Editorial Committee of the journal through specific electronic communication to the address giornale.medmil@libero.it.

The JMM undertakes to protect anyone, in good faith, who reports behavior deemed to be incorrect in the conduct of research pursuant to specific legislation (“Whistleblowing”). If it deems unethical behavior to exist, after hearing the parties, it will adopt the measures deemed appropriate.

Policies for publication and accessibility of content and policies dedicated to aspects relating to the acquisition of consent and releases in compliance with the right to privacy; publicity for the subsequent debate

Copyright, accessibility, publication licenses, financing of JMM contributions are published in compliance with current regulations regarding copyright (law 633/1941 and subsequent amendments and additions). The JMM does not impose any processing and publication costs on the Authors. In order to guarantee the consultation of the works and their sharing among the scientific community and the wider civil society while protecting the credit of the Author, the Journal conforms to the principles of Open Access (Open Access - OA), ensuring compliance with the Berlin Declaration and the Messina Declaration. Once publication has taken place, the Authors are still free to directly republish the article in PDF format on institutional archives and websites, private sites, blogs, servers, social networks, newsletters. The article must however maintain the original graphic structure and layout of the JMM, referring explicitly to the JMM website via hyperlink. For all unpublished articles accepted for publication on the JMM, any type of pre-publication of the article, for example during proposal submission, acceptance or drafts on any site or other publication, is not permitted.

Data personal management

The JMM complies with legal principles regarding the protection of confidentiality and personal data. The data will be processed according to current regulations (EU Regulation 2016/679 General Data Protection Regulation - GDPR and subsequent amendments and additions) for the sole purposes inherent to the management of the Journal. Pursuant to EU Regulation 2016/679, consent to data processing is collected upon submission of contributions through a specific written declaration. The interested party has the right to withdraw his consent at any time.

The revocation of consent does not affect the lawfulness of the processing based on consent before the revocation. Before giving consent, the interested party is informed of this. Consent is revoked as easily as it is given.

Procedures established to allow the subsequent debate to be publicized.

Consistently with its objective of scientific in-depth cultural comparison with respect to the multifaceted problems of interest in the medical-scientific field, the JMM favors initiatives for the creation, valorisation and institutionalization of debate following the publication of the contributions in the Journal. In particular, in line with the intentions of the Journal, all editorial bodies are actively engaged in stimulating the production of further contributions.

Procedures established for the management of conflicts of interest.

The conflict of interest arises when conditions exist which, with respect to the management practices of the JMM, appear suitable to affect the impartiality and autonomy of the subjects involved in various capacities in the decision-making processes of the Journal, from the process of evaluating submitted manuscripts and publishing them. Conflict of interest may exist when a member of the editorial bodies, an Author or a Reviewer have personal or economic relationships that may inappropriately influence their behavior, in terms of judgment or evaluations. This conflict can exist even if the subject believes that these relationships do not influence him. The Author must not have conflicts of interest that could have influenced the results achieved, the theses supported or the interpretations proposed. The Author must also indicate any financiers of the research or project from which the article derives. The Reviewers are required not to accept for reading articles for which a conflict of interest emerges due to previous/specific relationships of collaboration or competition with the Author (in itself unknown, but nevertheless identified by deduction) and/or to connections with the authors, bodies or institutions connected to the manuscript.

The Editorial Committee may ask the Authors, the Reviewers and all the subjects who work at the Journal, or who collaborate with it in various capacities, for a declaration in this regard and any additions. In order to manage the various cases of conflict of interest in a transparent, responsible and correct manner, anyone can report them to the Editorial Committee or to the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal, specifying their nature, terms, origin and scope. The Editorial Committee, following the analysis of the documentation provided to it, may find that a conflict of interest cannot be remedied. In this case the Editorial Committee will be authorized to adopt the necessary measures to protect the proper functioning of the Journal, communicating its decisions to those directly involved. Conflicts of interest involving a member of the Editorial Committee or Committee of Reviewers will be discussed before the responsible Director assisted by the Committee of Reviewers selected by the Director.