

Publication Ethics and Malpractice Statement

The ethical principals that follow are greatly inspired by the common experience of many journal Editors, and are based upon the Haute Autorité de Santé's recommendations and the *Uniform requirements for manuscripts submitted to biomedical journals : writing and editing for medical publication* suggested by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors. They are also greatly inspired by the recommendations of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE). Not respecting the following statement may be considered as unethical behaviour and may be cause for rejection or retraction of a manuscript or published article.

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The authors agree to refer to all financial support as well as to all previous publications their article is based on.

Privacy and confidentiality rules

Patients and professionals have a right to privacy that should not be violated without informed consent. Identifying information (names, initials, or hospital numbers) should not be published in written descriptions, photographs, or pedigrees unless the information is essential for scientific purposes and the patient (or parent or guardian) gives written informed consent for publication. When informed consent has been obtained, it must be mentioned as so in the published article. A mandatory alternative is to « blur » by using a fictive identification which guarantees a total anonymity to the patient and professionals. These precautions are deemed so important that they are a foundation of the French law of March 5th 2012 called the « Loi Jardé » which concerns researches implicating humans. However, we are not yet certain of its way of use as the enforcement decree has not been published in the Official Journal.

<http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichTexte.do?cidTexte=JORFTEXT000025441587>

Authors and contributors' responsibilities

The « author » status must only be used by those who fulfil all four of the following requirements: a) brought substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work; or the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data for the work; AND b) drafted the work or revised it critically for important intellectual content; AND c) gave final approval of the version to be published; AND d) agreed 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.

Those who do not meet all criteria can be mentioned in the « acknowledgments » for their technical or writing assistance, but cannot be considered author. Financial and material aid must also be acknowledged. Those whose contributions do not justify authorship may be acknowledged individually or together as a group under a single heading (e.g. « Clinical Investigators », «Participating Investigators ») and their contributions should be specified (e.g. « collected data », «served as scientific advisor » etc.). Because acknowledgments may imply endorsement by thanked individuals of a study's data and conclusions, a written permission to be acknowledged must be given for each individual.

The authors declare that all data in the article are truthful and authentic.

By submitting an article for publication, authors recognize their obligation to participate in the peer-review process.

Peer-review and double-blind validation

Peer-review is the critical assessment of manuscripts submitted to journals by experts who are usually not part of the editorial staff. Because unbiased, independent, critical assessment is an intrinsic part of all scholarly work, including scientific research, peer review is an important extension of the scientific and clinical process. It also helps authors and editors to improve the quality of their articles.

Manuscripts are studied in a strictly confidential manner and among reviewers themselves. Only the journal's editor himself can remove the confidentiality for exceptional and legitimate reasons.

The reviewers must not present any conflict of interest with respect to the research, its authors and / or funders. They must point out relevant published work which was not yet cited.

Authors are obliged to provide corrections or retractions of all mistakes found by the reviewers.

Editorial responsibilities

The editors are responsible for everything published in their journal. The editorial team ensures the quality of all material published and values freedom of expression.

The editors ensure the secrecy of the reviewers' identities.

The editorial committee has the authority and responsibility of accepting or rejecting an article after having received the data from the peer-review process.

When mistakes are identified, the editors encourage their corrections and decide whether to delete or publish the article according to their importance. Articles are accepted only when the editor is sure of the publication. The editor is always receptive to publication of corrections, retractions or excuses when necessary.

Conflicts of interest

The credibility of published articles depend in part on how transparently conflicts of interest are handled during the planning, implementation, writing, peer review, editing, and publication of scientific work. A conflict of interest exists when an author (or the institution to which he belongs), a reviewer, or an editor, is inappropriately influenced by a financial or personal relationship. These relationships may be negligible or considerably influential on a judgement. All relationships therefore do not make a conflict of interest. Financial relationships, personal relationships, academic competition and intellectual belief may influence an article's content. The editorial board members can base themselves on the information given in the disclosure of conflicts of interest to make editorial decisions. They must publish this information if they believe they are important for judging the manuscript.

When authors submit a manuscript of any type or format they are responsible for disclosing all financial and personal relationships that might bias or be seen to bias their work. In order to avoid any ambiguity, authors must formally identify any potential conflict. When in doubt, it is better to over declare.

Deontology

The editorial committee monitors the adequacy between the clinical position supported by the author and the deontological requirements of the profession.

It ensures that all articles, published or not, respect the ethical and deontological rules detailed in the French Psychologists' Deontology Code (*Code de Déontologie des Psychologues*) revised in February 2012.

If a fallacious point is raised by a member of the editorial board, he ensures that the authors can provide the necessary clarifications before making any decision on publishing or not the research.

Suggestion :

For a good use of psychological tests, it is possible to refer to :

- the international recommendations on the usage of tests, published by Société Française de Psychologie (French psychology society) in *Pratiques psychologiques* :

<http://www.intestcom.org/Downloads/French%20guidelines%202003.pdf>

- the consensus conference (recommendations for the psychological exam and measure use in psychology) :

www.consensus-exampsy.org

For all matters that concern publication ethics, it is also necessary to refer to the psychologists' deontology code revised in February 2012.