

## **Publication Ethics Statement**

Ethical standards are crucial to ensure high quality of scientific publications, credibility of scientific findings, and evaluation of authors' work. *Preventive Medicine* adheres to the philosophy of publishing ethics and has always fulfilled this promise. Here are a few important publishing ethics and guidelines for the author, the journal editor, and the peer reviewer's reference, which refer to the ethical standards developed by COPE (Committee on Publication Ethics), EASE (European Association of Scientific Editors) and other institutions, as well as CY/T 174-2019 "Academic publishing specification-Definition of academic misconduct for journals" developed by National Press and Publication Administration.

### **I. Author's responsibilities**

The author must eliminate the following academic misconduct:

1. Plagiarism: Including ideas, data, pictures, research methods, text statement, whole and unpublished articles of others. The first five are used without attribution in the article and published under one's own name. Plagiarism as a whole refers to the body of a paper or the body of a part of a paper overquoting or quoting in large quantities from the published literature of others. Plagiarism in an unpublished paper of others refers to the unauthorized use of others' unpublished ideas, original research (experimental) methods, data, pictures, etc., or without permission but without explanation. This publication will not allow any plagiarism.
2. Fabrication and falsification: Authors should ensure the authenticity and effectiveness of the data they submit and publish. Fabricating false data or tampering with others' research data and content is strictly prohibited.
3. Inappropriate authorship: Author's signature shall be limited to persons who have made substantial contributions to the research covered by the paper. Persons who have not made substantial contributions shall not be credited as authors. Authors must obtain the authorization and consent of the co-authors before submission. The publication of the paper should be guaranteed with the authorization of all authors, and the order of authors should not be disputed. Any other person or organization involved in some substantive aspect of the research project should be clearly identified in the acknowledgement section.
4. Multiple submissions: The author has the obligation to ensure that the paper has never been published. It is not allowed to submit the same paper or papers with minor differences (such as supplementary data or information) to multiple journals at the same time. In the absence of any explanation, the author (or one of the authors) is not allowed to resubmit a paper that has already been published, intact or slightly modified.
5. Overlapping publications: The author has to add citation or explanation, if use the content of his own (or as one of the authors) published literature in the paper; It is not allowed to extract part of

the contents of several published articles by oneself (or as one of the authors) without any explanation and put them together into a new paper for publish again.

6. Against biomedical research ethics: For biomedical research involving humans, the author should state whether the experimental procedures used have been reviewed and approved by an ethical review committee. For approved studies, the approval number must be indicated in the paper. If the institution does not have a formal ethics committee, the author should indicate whether the trial procedures used are in accordance with national ethical standards for biomedical research involving humans or the latest revision of the Helsinki Declaration of the World Medical Association. If there is doubt whether the research was conducted in accordance with ethical standards, the author must explain the justification for his methodology and demonstrate that the institutional review body explicitly approved the questionable aspects of the research. In addition, according to the informed consent principle, the study also needs to obtain the informed consent of the study participant or the child's guardian.

7. Others: References that have not been actually referenced should not be included in the references. The copyright documents of another person may not be used without indicate source or incomplete citation. Citations from other sources should not be marked as direct citations. Funds and projects, support or assistance for publication shall be indicated on the manuscript. The key information of the paper shall not be disclosed to others or the society, which infringes the right of first issue of the contributing journal. Not to use copyright documents requiring permission without permission. It is not allowed to interfere with journal editors and review experts during the review procedure. It is not allowed to recommend peer reviewers who have interests with themselves to editors. It is not allowed to entrust a third party organization or others who have nothing to do with the content of the paper to write, submit or repair it on behalf of others. It is forbidden to publish papers in violation of confidentiality provisions.

## **II. Peer reviewers' responsibilities**

1. The reviewers should use their own professional knowledge and ability to review the innovation, scientificity, and practicality of the manuscript; make a fair evaluation of whether the research method is appropriate, whether the scientific research design is reasonable, whether the results, conclusions are accurate, and whether there is leakage. The reviewers should also help editors judge the choice of manuscripts; propose detailed revisions to the problems of the article to help the author improve the quality of the manuscript.

2. The review should respect different academic points of view, adhere to the principle of objectivity, and only evaluated academically, without making personal comments or personal attacks. Manuscript selection is not affected by the race, gender, religion, belief, status, qualifications and authority of the author. The arguments must be clearly stated with sufficient arguments and facts. If the manuscript is found to have suspicious duplicate publication, fraud, plagiarism or other academic misconduct, it should be truthfully reported to the editorial department.

3. The reviewers should fill in the review comments on time and feed back to the editorial office within the specified time. thinks that he or she is not capable of reviewing the relevant research in the manuscript, or knows that the review cannot be completed within the specified time, he or she should immediately inform the editorial office to make adjustments so that other reviewers can be replaced in time.

4. Reviewers are not allowed to review manuscripts that have conflicts of interest arising from competition, cooperation, and cooperation with authors, organizations, and companies.

5. The reviewed manuscripts shall be kept strictly confidential and shall not be shared or discussed with others. The data, opinions and conclusions of the manuscripts reviewed shall not be used or published. If they are to be used, the consent of the authors must be obtained.

6. Do not make use of the confidential information and the rights of the review for personal benefit.

7. The reports and arguments explicitly cited in the manuscript must clearly indicate the source. Reviewers need to identify un-published works that are not cited by the author; explain to the author the similarity or repeatability between the submitted papers and the published papers and data in accordance with their own knowledge and cognitive categories.

### **III. Editors' responsibilities**

1. The editors of the journal should be responsible for all the editorial aspects of the journal, including the continuous promotion of journal development, ensuring that the quality of the edited manuscript is published on time. Editors should strictly abide by and implement relevant national laws and regulations and academic publishing ethics, as well as comply with the legal requirements on libel, copyright infringement and plagiarism.

2. All manuscripts will be treated equally and fairly. The manuscript will be accepted/rejected only on the basis of originality, importance, clarity, and compatibility with the purpose and scope of the journal, without regard to the race, gender, sexual orientation, religious belief, ethnicity, national origin, or political views of the author. Respect the research results of the author and comments of the expert.

3. Editors should abide by the principle of confidentiality and should not disclose any information about the submitted paper to others except for providing necessary information to corresponding authors, reviewers and members of the editorial board as appropriate. Do not disclose the information of the author and reviewer. Do not share content of the manuscript with others outside of editing procedures. Those who fail to safely store manuscripts or destroy manuscripts and electronic manuscripts in accordance with regulations and thus cause information leakage should be investigated for responsibility.

4. Without the written consent of the author, the editors should not use the unpublished material in

the manuscript for study. The contents and research results of unpublished manuscripts should not be published without authorization.

5. Editors should put forward editorial opinions in accordance with academic and ethical standards, and refuse all the manuscripts that are detrimental to the business needs of academic ethics and the exchange of interests. It is not allowed to deliberately select experts who have interest relations with the authors to review the paper, and it is not allowed to conceal the interest relations with the authors. Once there is interest conflict or cooperation with the author, the editor or the reviewer must be replaced, and the chief editor or other members of the editorial board should be responsible for the review of the manuscript.

6. Editors should not interfere with the review, influence the review comments, deny or distort the opinions of reviewers without any reason. They should feed back the comments of reviewers in time and coordinate academic discussions.

7. Do not intentionally distort the author's intention to modify the manuscript. Editors should communicate with authors in time and obtain the consent of authors when making a major revision. Editors should respect the opinions of authors, encourage academic controversy, and have the obligation to reply and convey the authors' different views on the reviewers' comments.

8. Editors have an obligation to investigate and communicate academic misconduct. Once an academic ethics complaint is filed or published, the editor must take effective judgments, such as correction, clarification, withdrawal, apology, etc. Editors have an obligation to hold authors and reviewers accountable for misconduct.

9. When there is an important topic, the editors should declare according to the regulations. No article may be published without the permission of the author. It is not allowed to add self-cited literatures of journals that have nothing to do with the content of the published papers, or require or imply that the authors cite specific literatures unnecessarily. For manuscripts that need to provide relevant materials for ethical review, the relevant requirements and procedures should not be ignored.