

PUBLICATION ETHICS GUIDELINES

The Journal of Rehman Medical College (JRMI) adopts guidelines for ensuring ethical publications, as provided by:

1. The Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE: www.publicationethics.org).
2. The International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE; www.icmje.org; <http://icmje.org/recommendations/browse/roles-and-responsibilities/protection-of-research-participants.html>)
3. The Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan, Ethical Guidelines for Journals (<https://www.hec.gov.pk/english/services/faculty/SSAH/Documents/JCR/HEC%20Approved%20Ethical%20Guidelines.pdf#search=ethical%20guidelines%20for%20editors>).

Authors are requested to abide by the guidelines to ensure timely acceptance of their publications.

PUBLICATION POLICY AGREEMENT

When submitting their manuscripts for publication in the Journal of Rehman Medical Institute (JRMI), authors must abide by the following agreements:

Exclusivity of Submission:

- It should be acknowledged that the manuscript is being submitted exclusively to JRMI and not to any other journal (print or online), book, magazine, online site, or any other place. This exclusivity confers the rights of publication to the journal and remains intact till such time that the decision of the journal editors is made against publication of the manuscript. Authors do reserve the rights to request for withdrawal of their submissions at any time for reasons deemed justifiable by the journal management until the manuscript has not accepted for publication by the editors.

Editing Rights:

- A submitted manuscript is liable to be edited by the journal management so that it meets the publishing requirements of the journal and its readers. Hence, all authors must understand and accept the final printable version of their manuscript even though it may differ in many aspects from the original submitted form. Editors will send the pre-print copy to the authors for their perusal and acceptance or for any modifications that are in line with journal publishing policy.

Manuscript Ownership and Copyrights:

- Submitting a manuscript or getting it published does not transfer ownership of the work to the journal. The author(s) retain their work as their property for all purposes, legal or otherwise, and are free to use the published form as they like. It is however recommended that should the article be sent for publication elsewhere later, JRMI management be informed, and the original publication be acknowledged in the subsequent publication.
- Publication rights are granted to the journal implicitly at the time of manuscript submission, and should not be confused with ownership, copyrights, or intellectual rights.

Consent of Authors:

- In case of multiple authors, it is mandatory to submit a document signed by all authors, to the effect that they have read the final form of the manuscript submitted for publication and agree to it being published in its submitted form. All authors must also acknowledge their contribution to the manuscript and to being held accountable for it, in case of any issue arising later.

Conflict of Interest:

- All authors must submit a signed Conflict of Interest (Col) statement at the time of manuscript submission. This statement should specifically mention any conflicting interests, or lack thereof, starting from initiation of the research work till its publication. Moreover, it should include a statement regarding how the publication is likely to provide any benefit to the author other than the implicit benefits of academic standing and related job acquisition/promotion. A conflict of interest of one or more authors is likely to affect the quality or direction of the research work, therefore the findings must be interpreted keeping the conflicts in mind.

Principal Author's Signature

Co-Authors' Signatures

Co-Author 1

Co-Author 2

Co-Author 3

Co-Author 4

Co-Author 5

Co-Author 6

PUBLICATION CHARGES POLICY

The Journal of Rehman Medical Institute (JRMI) does not request for any publication charges in the interest of making research publication affordable, and for encouraging young researchers who are not able to pay the cost of publications.

All costs of processing and publishing are borne by the parent institute, Rehman Medical Institute (RMI) from its own allocated resources.

The policy may change in future depending on the costs of publishing a large volume of articles as time goes by. However, RMI will still maintain the policy of payment based on incurred costs only, should the need arise.

PLAGIARISM GUIDELINES

The Journal of Rehman Medical Institute (JRMI) encourages and publishes only original work and will not accept plagiarism as an alternate; plagiarism is viewed as a resort to theft of intellectual property rights, and when detected, will elicit appropriate action in the form of rejection of the manuscript and reporting of the offence to relevant authorities nationally and internationally. Such reporting has in the past resulted in permanent debarring of the authors from any future publications on any forum; in some instances, the concerned authors have been subjected to disciplinary action and/or removal from service. The HEC policy on plagiarism mentions different levels and types of penalties that can be imposed on authors. Please visit:

<https://www.hec.gov.pk/english/services/faculty/Documents/Plagiarism/Plagiarism%20Policy.pdf>

Authors are responsible for checking their manuscripts through Turnitin and submitting a plagiarism report along with the manuscript submission. In any case, JRMI will check all manuscripts for plagiarism using Turnitin, keeping an acceptable similarity index of $\leq 15\%$ as a cutoff for acceptance.