

Document on Publishing Ethics and Scientific Integrity

The Editorial Board of the Croatian Journal of Public Health is particularly committed to ensuring the highest standards of ethical conduct in all aspects of work. In order to ensure ethical standards in all steps of the publishing process, including manuscript submission, processing, and publication, the guidelines of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) are employed.

The submitted manuscript must not contain any defamatory, derogatory, obscene, or unlawful material. Submission of manuscripts presenting previously published results is not desirable. Submitting the same manuscript to more than one journal simultaneously constitutes unethical behavior in publishing and is unacceptable.

All manuscripts must transparently cite all sources, primary and secondary, that the authors have used in preparing the submitted manuscript.

Acceptance of authorship by all listed authors of the submitted manuscript implies that all individuals listed as authors have contributed to the creation of the work and have given consent for its publication.

In making decisions regarding the acceptance or rejection of manuscripts for publication, the editorial board adheres to the policies of the Editorial Board as well as the applicable legal regulations regarding the protection of honor and reputation, violation of copyright, and plagiarism. Editors and members of the Editorial Board must not disclose information about the submitted manuscript outside the circle of individuals involved in the review process and publication of the specific manuscript. They must ensure confidentiality and prevent the misuse of all data and ideas obtained from authors and reviewers.

All submitted manuscripts, including those for thematic issues, are evaluated solely based on their intellectual content or academic value, without discrimination based on race, gender, sexual orientation, religious beliefs, ethnic origin, citizenship, or political beliefs of the authors. All manuscripts are assessed without any financial influence, and authors are obliged to disclose all sources of financial support for the work presented in the manuscript.

Submitted scientific manuscripts undergo a process of anonymous review by independent reviewers. Besides aiding the editor in deciding whether to publish the manuscript, the review process may contribute to improving the quality of the submitted manuscript. Reviewers must be objective and express their opinions unequivocally and with reasoning, ensuring confidentiality of the review process and all provided data. Reviewers must not consider manuscripts in which they have any conflict of interest, including financial, institutional, collaborative, or other relationships with the author or manuscript under review. All data and/or ideas obtained through the review are confidential and must not be used for personal purposes.

Authors of scientific manuscripts are obliged to present all data, results, and scientific contributions within the manuscript accurately and objectively, supported by relevant and as recent literature. False or knowingly inaccurate claims are considered unethical behavior and are not acceptable. Authors must guarantee that their manuscript is entirely original and in accordance with the rules of scientific methodology. All scientific manuscripts related to research conducted on animals or humans must have the approval of relevant ethical committees.

The final decision on the publication of an individual manuscript is made by the, taking into account the opinions of the reviewers and members of the Editorial Board. The Editor-in-Chief must not use unpublished manuscripts and/or attachments in their own research without the written consent of the author. In a special case, a guest editor of a thematic edition/block may simultaneously be an author of a manuscript in the section they are editing. In such a case, to prevent conflicts of interest, the guest editor must inform the Editorial Board in advance. Guest editors will not be involved in any way in the review process and acceptance of their own manuscripts; one of the permanent members of the Editorial Board will take care of their manuscript.

In the event of ethical complaints or conflicts, the editorial board will act in accordance with the journal's rules and provide authors with an opportunity to respond to the received complaints. All received complaints should be investigated regardless of the time of the original publication approval. All documentation related to complaints should be retained. If authors discover a significant error or inaccuracy in their own published manuscript, it is their obligation to immediately inform the editorial board or the journal's publishing department and cooperate in publishing of an erratum, addendum, correction, or, when necessary, in retracting the manuscript.