

## Publication Ethics and Malpractice Statement

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### Publishing Guidelines

Touch Medical Media requires all authors to adhere to the ethical standards as outlined by the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE), International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE), and World Association of Medical Editors (WAME).

#### Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE)

Touch Medical Media follows the guidance outlined in [The Code of Conduct and Best Practice Guidelines for Journal Editors](#) for matters regarding publication ethics, including how to handle cases of research and publication misconduct. The publisher recommends all authors review the guidelines before submitting a manuscript to the journal.

#### International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE)

Touch Medical media follows the [Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing, and Publication of Scholarly work in Medical Journals](#) outlined by ICMJE. The publisher recommends that all authors review the guidelines before submitting a manuscript to the journal.

### Duplicate Submissions and Publications

In keeping with publication practice it is deemed unethical for an author to submit the same, or a very similar, study to more than one journal at once. Duplicate submissions also include the submission of the same/similar manuscript in different languages to different journals. Touch Medical Media follow the guidance outlined by COPE regarding duplicate [submissions](#) and [published](#) articles.

### Plagiarism

Plagiarism refers to an author presenting the work of others as if it was their own without full acknowledgment. This includes directly copying a previously published piece without acknowledgment and duplicating significant portions of text from previously published work. Touch Medical Media follow the guidelines outlined by COPE regarding cases of suspected plagiarism in [submitted](#) and [published](#) articles.

### Data Fabrication and Falsification

It is a violation of publication ethics to fabricate, falsify and manipulate data. Touch Medical Media follow the guidance outlined by COPE regarding fabricated data in [submitted](#) and [published](#) articles.

### Authorship

The role of the author is defined in the [Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing, and Publication of Scholarly work in Medical Journals](#). Authors are accountable for their contributions and should have confidence in the integrity of the contributions of their co-authors. Contributors who do not qualify as an author should be acknowledged in the relevant section. Authors should disclose all relevant conflicts of interest to the work under consideration and all funding sources. Touch Medical Media follow the guidance outlined by COPE regarding [authorship issues](#).

### Compliance with Ethics Guidance

Authors of original contributions are asked to include a statement confirming that procedures were compliant with ethics guidelines and with patient consent. Touch Medical Media refer to the COPE guidance on [ethical issues](#) in cases of suspected ethical problems.

## Note to Authors

Authors should carefully read and adhere to the ethical publication guidelines on duplicate publication, plagiarism, data fabrication/falsification and authorship before submitting a manuscript. Please refer to COPE and ICMJE for full guidelines and recommendations. Conflicts of interest and funding sources must be fully disclosed. Further details on how to construct the disclosure statement can be found in the journal [Instructions for Authors](#).

## Note to Reviewers

Reviewers must treat all manuscripts as confidential documents. Reviewers should critique the manuscript objectively and provide comments supported by evidence that the author can use to improve the paper. Invited reviewers who do not feel qualified should notify the editor of any concerns. Reviewers should declare all relevant conflicts of interest clearly, and decline to review articles where necessary. Guidance on the peer review process can be found in the journal [Information for Peer Reviewers](#).

## Note to Editors

Editors should give unbiased consideration to each manuscript submitted for consideration for publication, but reserve the right to reject articles that are out of scope of the journal or are not recommended by the peer reviewers. Editors should be proactive and responsive to any ethical publishing issues that arise with submitted and published articles, referring to the guidance outlined by COPE when necessary.