This statement aims to provide guidelines about the responsibilities of authors who submit papers to *The World Journal of Men’s Health (WJMH)*. This statement also helps reviewers and editors to prevent any misconduct by anyone associated with the publication of the papers. This statement covers all papers, including review articles, original articles, case reports, letters to editor, and any other papers submitted to *WJMH*. For the policies on research and publication ethics not stated in the Instructions, Guidelines on Good Publication (https://publicationethics.org/resources/guidelines) or Good Publication Practice Guidelines for Medical Journals (https://www.kamje.or.kr/en/main_en) can be applied.

1. Research Ethics


Please refer to the principles embodied in the Declaration of Helsinki (https://www.wma.net/what-we-do/medical-ethics/declaration-of-helsinki/) for all investigations involving human subjects. Animal experiments should be reviewed by a committee appropriate for the care and use of animals. Also, studies with pathogens requiring a high degree of biosafety should pass the review of a relevant committee. The editor of *WJMH* may request submission of copies of informed consent agreements from human subjects in clinical studies or IRB approval documents.


1) Conflict-of-Interest statement

Conflict of interest exists when an author or the author’s institution, reviewer, or editor has financial or personal relationships that inappropriately influence or bias his or her actions. Such relationships are also known as dual commitments, competing interests, or competing loyalties. These relationships vary from being negligible to having a great potential for influencing judgment. Not all relationships represent true conflict of interest. On the other hand, the potential for conflict of interest can exist regardless of whether an individual believes that the relationship affects his or her scientific judgment. Financial relationships such as employment, consultancies, stock ownership, honoraria, and paid expert testimony are the most easily identifiable conflicts of interest and the most likely to undermine the credibility of the journal, the authors, or of the science itself. Conflicts can occur for other reasons as well, such as personal relationships, academic competition, and intellectual passion (http://www.icmje.org/conflicts-of-interest/). If there are any conflicts of interest, authors should disclose them in the manuscript. The conflicts of interest may occur during the research process as well; however, it is important to provide disclosure. If there is a disclosure, editors, reviewers, and reader can approach the manuscript after understanding the situation and the background of the completed research.

2) Statement of human and animal rights

1) Statement of human rights

When reporting experiments on human subjects, authors should indicate whether the procedures followed were in accordance with the ethical standards of the responsible committee on human experimentation (institutional and national). If doubt exists whether the research was conducted in accordance with the ethical standards, the authors must explain the rationale for their approach, and demonstrate that the institutional review body explicitly approved the doubtful aspects of the study.
(2) Statement on the welfare of animals
The welfare of animals used for research must be respected. When reporting experiments on animals, authors should indicate whether the international, national, and/or institutional guidelines for the care and use of animals have been followed, and that the studies have been approved by a research ethics committee at the institution or practice at which the studies were conducted (where such a committee exists). When reporting experiments on animals, authors should be asked to indicate whether the institutional and national guide for the care and use of laboratory animals was followed.

(3) An ethics statement should be included in the Materials and Methods section: Please see the “Information for Authors-Format”.

3) Statement of informed consent and institutional review board approval
Copies of written informed consents should be kept for studies on human subjects. For the clinical studies with human subjects, there should be a certificate, an agreement, or the approval by the IRB of the author's affiliated institution. If necessary, the editor or reviewers may request copies of these documents to resolve questions about IRB approval and study conduct.

2. Obligation to Register Clinical Trial
A clinical trial, which is defined as “any research project that prospectively assigns human subjects to intervention and comparison groups to study the cause-and-effect relationship between a medical intervention and a health outcome,” must be registered with the primary registry prior to publication. WJMH accepts registration in any of the primary registries that participate in the WHO International Clinical Trials Portal (http://www.who.int/ictrp/en/), the NIH ClinicalTrials.gov (https://www.clinicaltrials.gov), the ISRCTN Register (http://www.isrctn.com), or the Clinical Research Information Service (https://cris.nih.go.kr/cris/index.jsp). The clinical trial registration number should be included in the Ethics Statement of the Material and Methods.

3. Authorship and Author’s Responsibilities
WJMH follows the recommendations for authorship by the ICMJE, 2018 (http://www.icmje.org/recommendations/). Authorship be based on the following 4 criteria: (1) Substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work; or the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data for the work; AND (2) Drafting the work or revising it critically for important intellectual content; AND (3) Final approval of the version to be published; AND (4) Agreement 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.

In addition to being accountable for the parts of the work he or she has done, an author should be able to identify which co-authors are responsible for specific other parts of the work. In addition, authors should have confidence in the integrity of the contributions of their co-authors.

All those designated as authors should meet all four criteria for authorship, and all who meet the four criteria should be identified as authors. Those who do not meet all four criteria should be acknowledged. These authorship criteria are intended to reserve the status of authorship for those who deserve credit and can take responsibility for the work. The criteria are not intended for use as a means to disqualify colleagues from authorship who otherwise meet authorship criteria by denying them the opportunity to meet criteria 2 or 3. Therefore, all individuals who meet the first criterion should have the opportunity to participate in the review, drafting, and final approval of the manuscript.

When a large multi-author group has conducted the work, the group ideally should decide who will be an author before the work is started and confirm who is an author before submitting the manuscript for publication. All members of the group named as authors should meet all four criteria for authorship, including approval of the final manuscript, and they should be able to take public responsibility for the work and should have full confidence in the accuracy and integrity of the work of other group authors. They will also be expected as individuals to complete conflict-of-interest disclosure forms. When submitting a manuscript authored by a group, the corresponding author should specify the group name if one exists, and clearly identify the group members who can take credit and responsibility for the work as authors. Journals generally list other members of the group in the Acknowledgments.
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2) Reviewers should have no conflict of interest, which includes financial and competitive relationships with the authors or their research.
3) When a relevant published work has not been cited, reviewers should point out it to the authors.
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4) When errors are found in a published article, editors should immediately publish a correction or a retraction. The editorial board should retract any article that shows evidence of malpractices. Malpractices include fabrication, falsification, plagiarism, and duplicate publication.
5) Reviewers’ information related to an article should not be available to the authors or others except the editor in charge of the article.

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1) The editorial board should monitor and guard publication ethics for all papers submitted to WJMH. All manuscripts submitted to the WJMH may be screened, using the iThenticate tool (Similarity Check), for textual similarity to other previously published works. When a paper has a similarity index over 40% with another published paper, it can be rejected with no review process.
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