ELEVENTH PRESS INTERNATIONAL PUBLISHING™
A Full-Stack Peer Reviewed Press & Multidisciplinary Syndication Network

OFFICIAL GUIDE · EP-G-06

Publication Ethics & Research Integrity Statement

Our COPE- and ICMJE-aligned policy on authorship, AI tools, plagiarism, data and image integrity, conflicts of interest, ethical oversight and reporting a concern.

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Purpose and scope

PURPOSE

To state the journal's policy on publication ethics and research integrity, aligned with COPE and ICMJE, covering authorship, AI tools, plagiarism, data and image integrity, conflicts of interest, ethical oversight, peer-review conduct, complaints and the reporting and investigation of concerns.

SCOPE

Applies to all content submitted to or published by Eleventh Press, and to everyone involved in its editorial process.

AUDIENCE

Authors, reviewers, editors and readers of Eleventh Press.

At a glance: ten key requirements

1. Eleventh Press aligns its policies with COPE Core Practices and the ICMJE Recommendations.
2. Everyone listed as an author must meet all four ICMJE criteria; gift, guest and ghost authorship are not permitted.
3. AI tools cannot be authors; their use must be disclosed and authors remain accountable.
4. Every submission is checked for textual similarity before it reaches a reviewer.
5. Fabrication, falsification and inappropriate image manipulation are serious misconduct.
6. Authors, reviewers and editors must declare competing interests; editors and reviewers recuse themselves where one exists.
7. Research with human participants or animals needs ethics approval and, where applicable, informed consent.
8. Coercive citation and citation manipulation are prohibited.
9. Report a concern to editorial@eleventhpress.com with the article's DOI or submission ID.
10. Substantiated concerns lead to a public, linked notice; the original record is never silently altered.

Benchmarked standards and basis

This guide is benchmarked against the external standards below. “Aligned with” describes the standard each requirement follows; it is not a claim of membership in, or certification by, the issuing body.

STANDARD AND ISSUING BODY	EDITION	HOW THIS GUIDE APPLIES IT
COPE Core Practices Committee on Publication Ethics https://publicationethics.org/core-practices	2017, with COPE flowcharts	The ten core practices structure this statement, and COPE flowcharts guide the handling of specific cases.

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STANDARD AND ISSUING BODY	EDITION	HOW THIS GUIDE APPLIES IT
ICMJE Recommendations International Committee of Medical Journal Editors https://www.icmje.org/recommendations/	Current edition	Authorship criteria, disclosure of competing interests and the use of AI-assisted technologies.
Declaration of Helsinki World Medical Association https://www.wma.net/policies-post/wma-declaration-of-helsinki/	2024 revision	Ethical principles for research involving human participants.
The European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity ALLEA https://allea.org/code-of-conduct/	Revised edition 2023	Definitions of research misconduct (fabrication, falsification, plagiarism) and other unacceptable practices.
Singapore Statement on Research Integrity 2nd World Conference on Research Integrity https://www.wcrif.org/guidance/singapore-statement	2010	The international principles of honesty, accountability, professional courtesy and good stewardship.
ARRIVE guidelines NC3Rs https://arriveguidelines.org/	ARRIVE 2.0 (2020)	Reporting and ethical standards for research involving animals.
Paper Mills: Research report from COPE & STM COPE and STM https://publicationethics.org/	2022	Indicators and handling of manuscripts produced by paper mills.

01 Our commitment

Eleventh Press International Publishing™ is committed to the integrity of the scholarly record. Our policies are aligned with the Core Practices of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) and the Recommendations of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE), which we apply across all twelve of our disciplines. Alignment describes the standards we follow; it is not a claim of membership or certification by those bodies.

02 Authorship and contributorship

Everyone listed as an author must meet all four ICMJE criteria: substantial contribution to the conception, design, data or analysis; drafting or critical revision; approval of the final version; and accountability for the work. Gift or guest authorship (listing people who did not contribute) and ghost authorship (omitting people who did) are not permitted. Contributors who do not meet the criteria are acknowledged, with their permission.

CRediT roles make individual contributions transparent. Authorship disputes are resolved by the handling editor before publication, following COPE guidance; we do not adjudicate them after the fact, which is much harder to do fairly. Where disputes cannot be resolved, we may refer them to the authors' institutions.

03 Generative AI and automated tools

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Generative AI tools cannot be listed as authors, because they cannot take responsibility for the work, approve it or be held accountable. Authors who use such tools in writing, data analysis, coding or image generation must disclose the tool and its purpose. Authors remain fully responsible for the accuracy, originality and integrity of all content, including citations, which must be checked against the sources. AI-generated images and data presented as research findings are not acceptable unless the generation is itself the subject of the research and is fully described.

Reviewers and editors must not upload manuscripts to AI tools that cannot guarantee confidentiality.

04 Plagiarism, duplicate publication and citation manipulation

Plagiarism — presenting others' words, ideas, data or images as one's own without attribution — is research misconduct. Every submission runs through an automated in-corpus similarity check before it reaches a reviewer, and similarity reports are interpreted by an editor, since overlap in methods text or properly quoted material can be legitimate.

Redundant or duplicate publication, meaning the publication of substantially the same work in more than one venue without disclosure, and simultaneous submission to more than one journal are not permitted. Preprints are not prior publication but must be declared. Coercive citation (pressing authors to cite a journal or individual) and citation stacking or cartels are prohibited. References are validated against OpenAlex during production, so that unresolvable or fabricated references are caught before publication.

05 Data integrity and image manipulation

Fabrication (inventing data or results) and falsification (manipulating materials, equipment, processes or data so that the research is not accurately represented) are serious misconduct. Authors should keep their raw data and be prepared to provide them to the editor on request.

Images may be adjusted for brightness, contrast or colour balance only if the adjustment is applied to the whole image and does not obscure, eliminate or misrepresent information. Splicing, duplicating, moving or removing features is not permitted unless clearly indicated and explained in the caption. Manuscripts showing signs of systematic manipulation or of production by paper mills, such as tortured phrases, irrelevant references or duplicated images across unrelated papers, are investigated following COPE and STM guidance.

06 Conflicts of interest

Authors must disclose all financial and non-financial interests that could be perceived as influencing their work, such as funding, employment, consultancies, shareholdings, patents, personal relationships and strongly held beliefs relevant to the topic. A declaration is required at submission, even if it is “none”.

Reviewers and editors must disclose any competing interest with a submission's authors or subject matter, such as a shared institution, a recent collaboration, a personal relationship or directly competing work, and recuse themselves from handling that submission where one exists. Submissions by editors or members of the editorial board are handled by an independent editor, and the author has no access to the review process.

07 Ethical oversight

Research involving human participants, identifiable personal data or human material must have been approved by an appropriate ethics committee or institutional review board, in line with the Declaration of Helsinki, and the manuscript must report the committee and approval reference. Informed consent must be obtained and

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reported; identifiable images or details require specific consent to publication.

Research involving animals must comply with applicable law and institutional approval and should be reported following the ARRIVE guidelines. Where approval was not required, the manuscript must explain why. Editors may request documentation, and manuscripts without adequate oversight may be rejected at any stage.

08 Reporting a concern and how it is investigated

Anyone may raise a concern about a submission or a published article. Email editorial@eleventhpress.com with the article's DOI (if published) or submission ID and a description of the issue, with any supporting evidence. Concerns can be raised anonymously, though contact details help us ask follow-up questions; we treat the identity of those raising concerns as confidential.

The editorial office investigates following COPE flowcharts, independently of the original handling editor wherever a conflict of interest is possible. Authors are informed of the concern and given an opportunity to respond. Where appropriate we contact the authors' institutions, which may carry out their own investigation. Outcomes range from no action, through a correction, an expression of concern or a retraction, to notifying institutions or funders. Every substantiated concern about a published article leads to a public, linked notice (see EP-G-07).

09 Complaints and appeals

Complaints about the editorial process, and requests for reconsideration of a decision on the grounds of a factual error in the review, are made to the handling editor or, where the complaint concerns the editor, to the editorial office. There is no formal appeal for scope decisions. Complaints are acknowledged, investigated by someone not involved in the original decision, and answered in writing.

10 Compliance checklist

Use this checklist before you submit, review or report. Every item reflects a requirement set out above.

- ☐ All listed authors meet the four ICMJE criteria; other contributors are acknowledged.
- ☐ Use of AI tools is disclosed and all content and citations have been verified.
- ☐ The work is original, not under consideration elsewhere, and any preprint is declared.
- ☐ Quoted and reused material is attributed; reused figures have permission.
- ☐ Images are unmanipulated beyond whole-image adjustments, with any exceptions explained.
- ☐ Raw data are retained and can be provided to the editor on request.
- ☐ All competing interests are declared.
- ☐ Ethics approval and consent, or the reasons they were not needed, are reported.
- ☐ Animal research follows ARRIVE and applicable law.

11 Frequently asked questions

How do I report a concern about a published article?
Email editorial@eleventhpress.com with the article's DOI and a description of the issue, with any evidence. The identity of those raising concerns is kept confidential.

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Is Eleventh Press a member of COPE?
Our policies are aligned with COPE Core Practices and the ICMJE Recommendations. Alignment describes the standards we follow; it is not a claim of membership or certification.

Can I use ChatGPT or other AI tools to write my paper?
AI tools may assist, but their use must be disclosed, they cannot be authors, and you remain responsible for the accuracy and integrity of all content, including citations.

What happens if plagiarism is found after publication?
The concern is investigated following COPE guidance and, if substantiated, leads to a public, linked notice such as a correction or retraction.

Who handles a submission from an editor?
An independent editor. The submitting editor has no access to the review process.

Related guides and how to cite this guide

- **EP-G-07 — Corrections, Retractions & Expressions of Concern Guide**
  https://eleventhpress.com/resources/guides/corrections-retractions-and-expressions-of-concern
- **EP-G-01 — Author Submission Guide**
  https://eleventhpress.com/resources/guides/author-submission-guide
- **EP-G-03 — Reviewer Handbook**
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