

Template for Ethical and Legal Declarations

STATEMENT	TEXT
Acknowledgments*	
Research ethics	
Informed consent	
Author contributions	
Competing interests	
Research funding	
Data availability	

*We do not accept submissions that name Artificial Intelligence (AI) and/or Machine Learning Tools as credited author(s) on a manuscript because such tools cannot take responsibility for the submitted work and therefore cannot be considered as eligible authors. Where such tools or technologies are used as part of the design or methodology of a research study, their use should be clearly described in the Acknowledgments section.

AUTHOR INSTRUCTIONS

MANDATORY STATEMENTS

- Acknowledgments** If not applicable, please remove from the template.
- Research ethics** State the appropriate information, including that the study was conducted in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki (as revised in 2013).
If not required, please insert
- “The local Institutional Review Board deemed the study exempt from review” if the IRB specifically exempted the study from review **OR**
 - “Not applicable.”
- Informed consent** If required, please insert
- “Informed consent was obtained from all individuals included in this study, or their legal guardians or wards.”
- If not required, please insert
- “Not applicable.”

Make sure that the information on Research ethics and Informed consent is consistent with the information in the manuscript.

- Author contributions** Insert the mandatory default statement and include more detailed information about an individual author’s contribution, if applicable.
- “The author(s) have (has) accepted responsibility for the entire content of this manuscript and approved its submission.”
- Competing interests** State if any author(s) has/have a conflict of interest, including the name of the author(s) and the reason, followed by “All other authors state no conflict of interest” (if applicable).
If none of the authors has a conflict of interest, please insert
- “The author(s) state(s) no conflict of interest.”
- Research funding** State if your study was financially supported (add funding agency and grant number).
If not required, please insert
- “None declared.”
- Data availability** If applicable, please insert
- “The raw data can be obtained on request from the corresponding author.”
- If the type of study does not include raw data, please insert
- “Not applicable.”

OPTIONAL STATEMENTS

In addition to the mandatory information, you can provide information on the aspects below by adding the statement(s) to the template. Make sure you follow the order and terminology given in the template.

| Consultant or advisory role | Role of sponsor | Employment or leadership | Honorarium | Patents | Other remuneration | Software availability | Trial registration |