Editorial Policy

Journal of Causal Inference (JCI) endorses editorial policy recommended by the Committee of Publication Ethics (COPE) and the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE).

1. Authorship
According to the recommendations of COPE and ICMJE the authorship of the work should fulfill the following criteria:

- Substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work; or the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data of the work.
- Drafting the work or revising it critically for important intellectual content.
- Final approval of the version to be published.
- 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.

Those who do not meet the all four criteria should be acknowledged. It is the sole responsibility of contributors to determine the authors of the manuscript submitted to the journal.

Addition or Removals of Authors:
The authors’ request for addition or removal of an author should be properly justified. Please note that a change in authorship (order of listing, addition or deletion of a name, or corresponding author designation) after submission of the manuscript will be implemented only after receipt of signed statements of agreement from all parties involved (all listed authors and the author to be removed or added).

2. Submission
Submission of a manuscript to JCI implies that the manuscript (or one with substantially the same content, by any of the authors) has not been previously published in any language anywhere and that it is not under simultaneous consideration by any other journal. Furthermore, all co-authors must have agreed to its publication and have given the corresponding author the authority to act on their behalf in all matters pertaining to publication. The corresponding author is responsible for informing the co-authors of the manuscript status throughout the submission, review and production process.

3. Peer Review Procedure
All manuscripts are handled online through Clarivate’s ScholarOne Manuscripts and will be automatically checked for similarities at the moment of submission.

Submitted manuscripts will be reviewed in a two-step procedure. Firstly, the Editor-in-Chief decides whether the manuscript fulfills the substantive and formal criteria for the further review process. The decision is based on the following criteria:

- Relevance: the content conforms to the scope and goals of JCI.
- Originality/topicality: the content is sufficiently important and topical to be published in JCI.
- Formal correctness: the formal criteria have been met.
- Ethical Guidelines: national and international ethical standards for studies with human and/or animal subjects are fulfilled (where applicable).
In case that the criteria have not been met, the manuscript is being rejected without peer review. The authors have the opportunity to resubmit the manuscript after revision.

If all criteria have been met, the manuscript will undergo a double-blind peer review by at least two independent reviewers.

The Editor-in-Chief selects and invites reviewers who will make an objective, impartial evaluation of the scientific merits of the manuscript.

Final decisions are made by the Editor-in-Chief on the basis of the reviewers’ comments and their judgment of the manuscript's scientific quality. JCI aspires to notify authors within 4 weeks from the submission date.

In case of missing standards, lacks in scientific precision or other major deficiencies, the manuscript will be rejected. If a manuscript is being considered for publication but in need of improvement, revision of the manuscript is being required. The authors have to follow the reviewer’s comments and reply to them. Revised manuscripts must be re-submitted within approximately 6 weeks (extension of deadline is possible by request).

4. Proofreading

Prior to publication, the corresponding author will receive a PDF file with the edited version of the manuscript for final proofreading. This is the last opportunity to review and correct an article before its publication. No changes or modifications can be made once following publication. Authors are therefore advised to check and compare the edited version against their own manuscript carefully.

The corresponding author should return the list of corrections within 4 days to the production office. At this stage of production changes to content are no longer permitted. Only minor linguistic and typing corrections are possible.

Authors are occasionally asked to provide additional comments and explanations on linguistic or technical aspects to the technical editors.

5. Publication

Manuscripts accepted for publication receive a DOI (Digital Object Identifier) and will be published online ahead-of-print approximately 4 weeks after acceptance. For final publication, the articles are summarized according to year of publication (volumes) and numbers (issues), including consecutive pagination for each volume.

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- Bringing the concerns to the authors' sponsoring or funding institution, or other appropriate authority for investigation.

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- Is clearly defamatory, or infringes on others' legal rights.
- Is the subject of a court order, or there is good reason to believe that it will be.
- If acted upon, could pose a serious health risk.

In all of these cases, all co-authors will be informed about the retraction. A Retraction Note, detailing the reasons for retraction, will be linked to the original article.

11. Conflict of Interest

To encourage transparency without impeding publication, all authors, reviewers and editors must declare any association that poses a conflict of interest in connection with the manuscript. No contractual relations or proprietary considerations that would affect the content of the publication should exist.

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