

# Compliance with Ethics Guidelines

## Conflict of interest

Dear authors,

All articles for Springer specialist journals require a declaration on any conflict of interest relating to the present and the past five years.

Authors are formally requested to declare any financial and personal relationship to third parties whose interests could be positively or negatively influenced by the article's content, even if the author believes there to be no influence (see infobox).

This declaration is good publishing practice according to the uniform requirements for manuscripts submitted to biomedical journals of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors and helps to establish scientific transparency. Naturally, a conflict of interest does not in itself detract from the scientific statements made in the article.

Even if there is no conflict of interest, this must be stated explicitly.

## Examples

*Conflict of interest: J. Q. Public, A. Smith and E. Example state that there are no conflicts of interest.*

*Conflict of interest: J. Q. Public is a consultant for the company X / receives a consultancy fee from the company Y. Until recently, A. Smith was in an employment relationship with the company Z. E. Example states that there are no conflicts of interest.*

» Please make this declaration when you submit your manuscript. The declaration will be published.

## Patients' rights and animal protection statements

Medical research is subject to ethical standards, which promote the respect of

all humans and protect their health and rights. Physicians should take into consideration the ethical, legal and regulatory norms and standards for research on humans and animals in their respective countries as well as the respective international norms and standards.

Statements concerning having received approval by the appropriate ethics commission and having obtained informed consent from the participating patients should already be made at the time of submission of your manuscript. In the case of use of laboratory animals, please confirm that all national guidelines for the care and use of laboratory animals have been complied with and approval has been obtained from the responsible authorities.

## Examples

*All procedures followed were in accordance with the ethical standards of the responsible committee on human experimentation (institutional and national) and with the Helsinki Declaration of 1975 (in its most recently amended version). Informed consent was obtained from all patients included in the study.*

*Additional informed consent was obtained from all patients for whom identifying information is included in this article.*

*All institutional and national guidelines for the care and use of laboratory animals were followed.*

*This article does not contain any studies with human or animal subjects.*

### Conflict of interest: Definition

A conflict of interest exists whenever an author has a financial or personal relationship with a third party whose interests could be positively or negatively influenced by the article's contents:

- Financial relationships with companies whose products are directly or indirectly involved in the article. Example: A pharmaceutical company making or distributing a drug mentioned in the article or making or distributing a competitive product
- Contracts of employment
- Consultancies
- Shareholdings
- Speaker's fees
- Reimbursements of travel expenses
- Study sponsorships or other types of third party funding
- Links to health insurance funds, politicians or other interest groups
- Personal conflicts of interest exist, for example, if the author has a close relationship with someone whose economic or non-material interests are affected by the article (partnership, family relations etc.)

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