



# Editor Guidelines

Ethics Approval and Informed  
Consent Statements

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1. General editor guidelines.....	2
2. Author responsibilities.....	2
3. Editor responsibilities.....	2
4. Appropriate statement requirements.....	3
5. Additional information request.....	3

### 1. General editor guidelines

Every research paper published in the L&H Scientific Publishing requires statements for ethics approval and informed consent if necessary, which should be checked by the journal editors. To make the statements consistency between and within journals, the standardized statements in each published manuscript in the L&H Scientific Publishing should be used for the evaluations of journals by abstracting and indexing services.

L&H Scientific Publishing's policy for journals publishing human and/or animal studies is to require every manuscript to include appropriate statements as follows:

- Ethics committee, institutional review board (IRB) or institutional animal care and use committee (IACUC) consideration.
- Informed consent (i.e., collection/use of data or samples, and/or publication if applicable) or, in the case of animal studies, animal welfare.

### 2. Author responsibilities

The author(s) has a responsibility to provide accurate and complete reporting.

- Authors are required to confirm that the appropriate ethics review and informed consent/animal welfare protocols have been followed.
- If applicable, authors are expected to have conducted their research in accordance with the World Medical Association [Declaration of Helsinki](https://www.wma.net/policies-post/wma-declaration-of-helsinki-ethical-principles-for-medical-research-involving-human-subjects/) (<https://www.wma.net/policies-post/wma-declaration-of-helsinki-ethical-principles-for-medical-research-involving-human-subjects/>).
- If authors did not submit ethics approval or consent forms to the journal, the Editor may suspect that there is a problem with ethical aspects of submitted manuscripts. The L&H Scientific Publishing will request the author to provide the relevant documentation.

### 3. Editor responsibilities

The journal Editor is responsible for checking appropriate ethics and consent/animal welfare statements which are clearly stated in submitted manuscripts to an international readership.

- If the forms are submitted, the Editor's responsibility is to check thoroughly that they are appropriate.
- If there are potential legal/privacy issues with journals about confidential patient information such as completed consent forms, Editors should seek assistance from the publisher.

#### 4. Appropriate statement requirements

The appropriate ethics and consent/animal welfare statements should be transparent and complete. L&H Scientific Publishing journals should pay attention on the following issues for the appropriate statements:

- The approving body name and the approval number/ID should be included.
- The specific reasons for exemption should be provided if exemption from ethics approval has been granted by an appropriate body.
- Manuscripts should clearly state the reasons why ethics approval and/or informed consent cannot be obtained for a given study in a specific country/region.
- The purposes for the informed consent should be specified if the written or verbal informed consent can be provided.
- In manuscripts, authors should specify who waived the need for informed consent and state the reason.
- The L&H Scientific Publishing policy requires the standard statements of informed consent for publication if necessary.
- Statements on animal welfare should follow international, national and/or institutional guidelines for humane animal treatment and complied with relevant legislation

Authors should provide statements on ethics approval and informed consent with four types: obtained, exempted, waived or not obtained, which can be found in the COPE **Flowcharts** document (see <https://publicationethics.org/guidance/Flowcharts>).

Without the full statements, manuscripts should not enter peer-review process. The flowcharts used by editors should identify the study type, and the editors should follow the procedures to determine whether adequate statements have been included or not.

#### 5. Additional information request

If the information provided in a manuscript is not clear or adequate, Editors may request additional information from authors. If Editors have any concerns on ethics approval, they should reserve a right to reject papers, which should follow the relevant Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) guidance (see <https://publicationethics.org/guidance/Flowcharts>).

Before the manuscript is sent for peer-review process, Editors should be satisfied that the ethics approval and informed consent/animal welfare statements are appropriate.