

Value in Health Instructions for Authors

I. EDITORIAL SCOPE

About the Journal

As the official journal of the International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR), *Value in Health* provides a forum for researchers, health care decision makers, and policy makers to apply pharmacoeconomics and outcomes research into health care decisions. The goal of *Value in Health* is to advance scholarly and public dialogue about the assessment of *value* in health and health care.

Increasingly, health care decision makers and policy makers are seeking outcomes research information (ie, comparative treatment effectiveness, economic costs and benefits, and patient-reported outcomes) that can guide them in health care resource allocation and in evaluating alternative treatments and health services interventions. *Value in Health* publishes original research articles in the areas of economic evaluation (including drugs and other medical technologies), outcomes research (“real-world” treatment effectiveness and patient-reported outcomes research), and conceptual, methodological, and health policy articles. All research papers accepted for publication must be conducted in a rigorous manner and must reflect valid and reliable theory and methods. Empirical analyses and conceptual models must reflect ethical research practices and provide valuable information for health care decision makers and the research community as a whole.

Value in Health welcomes papers that make substantial contributions to the existing literature by providing new evidence or ideas that extend the current knowledge base. As such, manuscripts should describe the unique contribution of the article and place the current paper in context with the existing literature. *Value in Health* does not consider papers reporting data series or data sets that do not include appropriate statistical analyses. The journal uses the peer review process to ensure rigorous and transparent use of statistical methods. *Value in Health* also requires that papers reporting modeling results include sensitivity analysis of key and influential model parameters.

Mission Statement

The mission of *Value in Health* is to set a high scientific standard using editorial review and peer review, not just to screen articles, but also to foster communication within the research community—facilitating knowledge-sharing between the outcomes research community and health care decision makers. As such, the editors of *Value in Health* aim to enhance the validity, reliability, and transparency of health economics and outcomes research and its real-world applicability.

Editorial Scope

The journal provides a forum for the advancement and dissemination of knowledge and research in pharmacoeconomics and the health-related outcomes of interventions used to treat disease. To that end, the journal encourages original contributions in applied and theoretical pharmacoeconomics, and in the theory, measurement, analysis, and translation of health-related outcomes research. In keeping with its broad mission, *Value in Health* also will accept methodology papers and systematic literature reviews of empirical and theoretical literature in health economics and outcomes research.

Authors are invited to submit research articles that are based on coherent models, empirical studies, and theoretical work having pragmatic or policy-relevant implications. Appropriate valuation of health care interventions requires multidisciplinary perspectives and assessment of economic and outcomes data. Therefore, the journal welcomes theoretical and empirical articles about health effects and health costs that strive to improve the quality and reliability of outcome evaluations of health care interventions—contributed not only by economists, but also by behavioral psychologists, sociologists, clinicians, ethicists, and others.

Value in Health is particularly interested in receiving articles in the following areas:

Economic Evaluations

Economic evaluations that assess the costs and consequences of alternative health care interventions are of interest, including those involving drugs, devices, procedures, and systems of organization of health care. However, studies that only consider costs or the economic burden of disease are less likely to be accepted unless they address important methodological or policy issues.

Patient-Reported Outcomes

Many challenging empirical and theoretical problems remain in the concept and measurement of patient-reported outcomes (PRO), including health-related quality of life (QoL). Articles presenting research on the development of measures for PRO/QoL instruments, especially innovative ways of assessing content or construct validity, are invited. (See also “Country Adaptations” below.)

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Preference-Based Assessments

Research on the development and use of various types of instruments to express the value of health care, including health “utility” assessments, discrete-choice experiments/conjoint analyses, and assessments of individuals’ willingness to pay is encouraged. (See also “Country Adaptations” below.)

Comparative-Effectiveness Research/Health Technology Assessment

Although it is difficult to be precise about the nature of the articles in this category (see Luce et al, *The Milbank Quarterly* 2010;88:256-276 for one taxonomy), *Value in Health* welcomes articles presenting information that can assist those deciding on the efficient and equitable allocation of health care resources by examining the relative value of interventions. In some cases, relative value may be addressed by considering only clinical outcomes, although normally it will involve considering patient-reported outcomes/quality-of-life measures and impacts on resource utilization. Articles in this category can report the results of primary research or present findings from meta analyses or systematic reviews of the existing literature.

Health Policy Analyses

The journal invites articles that discuss various aspects of health policy, in particular those concerned with pricing and reimbursement issues, the adoption of new health technologies, or policies to encourage “value-based” decision making. However, the journal’s scope does not include papers dealing with more general issues of health care financing, health insurance, and cost-containment measures.

Country Adaptations

Value in Health recognizes that it is sometimes instructive to publish the results of health economics and outcomes research studies relating to more than one country. In the case of economic evaluations, this might involve using a model that was previously developed for an evaluation of a given intervention in another country. In the case of outcomes research, this might involve the validation of a quality-of-life instrument in another language or different jurisdiction. The journal is willing to consider such papers for publication, but only if they make a *substantial independent contribution to the literature*. Those submitting country adaptations should indicate (in the paper and their cover letter) what they consider the substantial independent contribution to be. It will not be sufficient to state that “results for intervention X have not previously been reported for country Y.” For more information about “Country Adaptations,” [click here](#).

Following Good Practices for Outcomes Research

Value in Health publishes the reports on “Good Practices for Outcomes Research” developed by task forces appointed by the ISPOR Board of Directors. There are now more than 65 task force reports, which can be accessed via the following link (http://www.ispor.org/workpaper/practices_index.asp). These task force reports provide guidance for best practices across a variety of research areas, including methods related to articles relevant to the scope of *Value in Health*. These include comparative-effectiveness research, economic evaluation, observational studies, patient-reported outcomes, modelling, preference-based methods, and the use of outcomes research in decision making.

Although *Value in Health* does not prescribe any particular research methods, the editors strongly encourage authors to review the ISPOR Good Practices for Outcomes Research reports relating to the methods or topics covered by their paper. The reports are written by thought leaders in the various fields of research and are extensively peer reviewed by members of the Society.

Some of the task force reports address the reporting of research studies. Irrespective of the methods used in a particular study, *Value in Health* believes that adherence to accepted standards of reporting is important. Therefore, if your paper reports an economic evaluation, we recommend that you follow the [CHEERS guidelines](#). If your analysis is based on a model, we recommend that you follow the guidance in the [ISPOR-SMDM Task Force report on model transparency and validation](#). Other reporting standards of particular relevance to authors of papers in *Value in Health* are the [PRISMA guidelines](#) for the reporting of systematic reviews and the [CONSORT guidelines](#) for reporting the results of studies assessing health-related quality of life/patient-reported outcomes.

Article Categories

Value in Health considers articles in the following categories, which comprise the sections of the journal. When submitting a manuscript through our online system, authors should indicate the appropriate category under which they wish their paper to be considered. All submissions will be considered for peer review prior to publication, with the exception of Editorials and Letters to the Editor, which will be reviewed internally by the editors.

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Article Type	Description	Word Limit*	Limit No. Figures / Tables**
Original Research	These papers report the findings of original research and may contain the results of empirical analysis, instrument development, or policy analysis.	4000	6
Methodological Articles	As the name implies, these papers deal with methodological issues in any of the topic areas within the scope of the journal. They can include data if these are required to illustrate the importance of particular methodological points.	3500	6
Policy Perspectives	These papers discuss important health policy topics within the scope of the journal. They may reflect conceptual pieces or reviews of the literature.	3000	4
Systematic Literature Reviews	These papers review empirical studies consistent with the methods of systematic review proposed by the Cochrane Collaboration. However, they need not be confined to reviews of randomized controlled trials and can include reviews of observational studies, economic evaluations, outcomes research studies, and preference-based assessments.	4000	6
Brief Reports	These are empirical analyses with a more narrow focus than original research articles and generally a single aim.	2500	2
Commentaries	These brief papers present a particular perspective on a timely or controversial topic. They do not necessarily need to be based on original research or reviews of the literature and can be based on opinion, providing the points made are transparent and well-argued. While commentaries are typically invited contributions, the editors will consider unsolicited submissions.	2000	1
Good Practices for Outcomes Research Task Force Reports	Task force reports are commissioned by the ISPOR Board of Directors and are developed by key thought leaders in their respective fields through a consensus development process. All task force reports are peer reviewed by ISPOR members through the Society's website prior to submission to <i>Value in Health</i> . Task force reports often contain substantial reviews of the literature and may be published in several parts.	5000	8
Editorials	Editorials are commissioned by the editorial team and often accompany a paper published in the same issue of the journal.	1200	1
Letters to the Editor	Customarily, letters refer to content published in the journal within the past 6 months. Authors of the article to which the letter refers will be given the opportunity to reply and if a response is issued, both the letter and the reply will be published in the same issue of the journal.	1500	1
* The manuscript word limit excludes the abstract, references, figure legends, tables, and appendices/supplemental materials.			
** The maximum number of graphic elements reflects a combined total of figures (including figure parts) and tables.			

II. MANUSCRIPT SPECIFICATIONS AND SUBMISSION

Value in Health uses a web-based submission system. To submit a manuscript, please create an account and log on here: <https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/valueinhealth>. For assistance, authors may contact the *Value in Health* editorial office at viheditor@ispor.org.

Author Anonymity

It is the policy of *Value in Health* that peer review of submitted manuscripts is double blinded (ie, the reviewers do not know the names of the authors of manuscripts and the authors do not know the names of the reviewers). As such, the journal requires that all identifying information (author names, acknowledgements, etc) be removed from the manuscript files and strictly limited to the cover letter and unblinded title page (which are not accessible to peer reviewers).

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Manuscript Formatting

Manuscripts must be written in English, typed in 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced, using an 8½ x 11-inch page format with 1-inch margins on all sides. Minimal formatting should be used (ie, no justification, underlining, indenting, etc). There should be no hard returns at the end of lines. Authors should consult the *AMA Manual of Style: A Guide for Authors and Editors* (10th ed) or the [Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals \(ICMJE Recommendations\)](#) for specific style issues not addressed here.

Formatting	Description
Font	12-point, Times New Roman
Line spacing	Double-spaced throughout
Margins	One inch (2.5 cm) on all sides
Page size	Letter (8½ x 11 inches)
Page numbering	Bottom of page, centered (starting with abstract page)
Heading style	First level: bold; second level: bold italics

Each submission should contain the following manuscript components (elements are listed in the order they should appear in the manuscript):

1. Cover Letter

The cover letter should be addressed to the co-editors-in-chief and include a brief description of the article, indicating why the paper would be of particular interest to the readers of *Value in Health* and how it contributes to the existing literature. In addition, the cover letter should include the following specific components:

Components	Description
Title	The full title and subtitle of the article (no more than 25 words)
Description/ Interest to Readers	A brief description of the article, indicating why the paper would be of particular interest to the journal's readership
Statement of Proprietary Data	Statement indicating whether the data, models, or methodology used in the research are proprietary
Funding/Support	All financial and material support for the research must be disclosed. Include the complete names of the funding organization(s) and grant numbers, where applicable (eg, "Funding for this study was provided by the National Institutes of Health grant 1ABC2DEF" or "This study was supported by XYZ, Inc")
Role of Sponsor	Statement that the publication of study results was not contingent on the sponsor's approval or censorship of the manuscript
Contact information for the corresponding author	Full name (first, middle, last) and degree; department; institution; mailing address; email; phone; and fax

2. Title Pages

Each manuscript must contain two separate title pages: One *unblinded title page* (containing author information, funding, and acknowledgements) and one *blinded title page* (containing no identifying information of the authors or author institutions). Generally, the title pages should contain the following elements:

Component	Description	Example
Manuscript title and subtitle, as appropriate	Concise title of the manuscript; no more than 25 words; in title case (not all caps).	Clinical Guidelines: A NICE Way to Introduce Cost-Effectiveness Considerations?
Running title	A shortened title (no more than 45 characters, including spaces) to be used as a running header in the journal	Clinical Guidelines and Cost Effectiveness [see full title above]

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Component	Description	Example
Full names, degrees, and affiliation for each author (unblinded title page only)	List the first name, middle initial (if applicable), surname, highest academic degree(s) (excluding certifications and fellowship designations), affiliation (department and institution), and city/province, state, and country for each author	John D. Doe, Jr, MD Department of Medicine University of York Helsington, York United Kingdom Susan T. Smith, MD, MPH Department of Health Policy University of Chicago Chicago, IL USA
Contact information for corresponding author (unblinded page only)	Provide the full name, mailing and email addresses, and telephone and fax numbers of the corresponding author (the person to whom all correspondence regarding the manuscript will be directed)	Thomas J. Wright, III, PhD Department of Economics Princeton University Robertson Hall Princeton, NJ, 08544 USA tjwright@princeton.edu Phone: (609) 123-4567 Fax: (609) 987-6543
Financial disclosures/funding statements (unblinded page only)	Include a brief statement indicating all sources of financial or other support received for the manuscript. If no funding was received, this should be noted on the title page.	Funding/Support: This study was supported by XYZ, Inc. Financial Disclosure: None reported.
Précis	25-word summary of the article (avoid simply restating the title)	Precis: Current Medicaid policies that restrict hepatitis C treatment to patients with advanced disease are more costly and less effective than unrestricted, full-access strategies.
Acknowledgements (where applicable)	Include a statement to acknowledge the assistance of anyone who contributed to the paper (ie, editorial or writing assistance, statistical review, special research assistance, etc), but does not meet the criteria for authorship.	Acknowledgements: Jane Doe, PhD, provided statistical support and Thomas Smith contributed to the writing of this article.
Word count (see limits for particular article types on pages 3-4)	Total number of words (excluding abstract, references, figure legends, tables, appendices)	Word Count: 3,250
Number of pages	Total number of pages (including figures, tables, appendices, etc) of the article	Number of Pages: 25
Number of figures (see limits for particular article types on pages 3-4)	Total number of figures (including figure parts [ie, 1a, 1b, 1c = 3]) in the main article (figures in appendices should be counted separately)	Number of Figures: 4
Number of tables (see limits for particular article types on pages 3-4)	Total number of figures in the main article (tables in appendices should be counted separately)	Number of Tables: 2
Appendices/supplemental materials	Include inclusive number of pages, figures, tables for any supplemental materials	Appendix: Pages: 6 Figures: 2 Tables: 0

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3. Manuscript Components

All manuscript submissions must contain the following components (see table below). Start each component on a new page.

Component	Format / Word Limit	Description
Abstract	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Structured (objectives, methods, results, and conclusions) 250 words 	All submissions (except Letters to the Editor and Editorials) must include an abstract that summarizes the work reported in the manuscript. Commentaries should include a brief, non-structured abstract / summary.
Highlights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2-3 brief summary statements 75-word limit for each highlight statement 	<p>Authors should identify 2-3 “Highlights” that illustrate the paper’s contribution to the field. These bulleted statements should address:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> What is already known about the topic? What does the paper add to existing knowledge? What insights does the paper provide for informing health care-related decision making?
Body of article	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction Methods Results Conclusions Discussion 	The body of the manuscript should be divided into sections that facilitate reading and comprehension of the material, using section headers (first, second, third, etc) as appropriate. Avoid use of footnotes.
References	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cite in text using bracketed Arabic numerals [1-4, 22,28] No superscripts Reference list should be numbered consecutively in order cited in the text Use AMA style for reference format 	<p>Citing unpublished or non-peer-reviewed work such as abstracts and presented papers is discouraged. Personal communications may be indicated in the text as long as written acknowledgment from the authors of the communications accompanies the manuscript.</p> <p>If there are six or more authors, use only the names of the first three, followed by et al.</p> <p>The four most common types of references are illustrated.</p>
	Journal article	Vassall A, Mangham-Jefferies L, Gomez GB, Pitt C, Foster N. Incorporating demand and supply constraints into economic evaluations in low-income and middle-income countries. <i>Health Econ</i> 2016;25(Suppl 1):95-115.
	Journal article with six or more authors	Thokala P, Devlin, N, Marsh K, et al. Multiple Criteria Decision Analysis for Health Care Decision Making—An Introduction: Report 1 of the ISPOR MCDA Emerging Good Practices Task Force. <i>Value Health</i> 2016;19(1):1-13.
	Book	Drummond MF, Sculpher MJ, Claxton K, Stoddart GL, Torrance GW. <i>Methods for the Economic Evaluation of Health Care Programmes</i> (4th ed). New York: Oxford University Press, 2015.
	Book chapter	Schulman KA, Glick HA, Polsky D. Pharmacoeconomics: Economic Evaluation of Pharmaceuticals. In: Strom BL, Kimmel SE eds, <i>Textbook of Pharmacoepidemiology</i> , West Sussex, England: John Wiley & Sons, Ltd, published online May 2013.
	Website	International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR). ISPOR Good Practices for Outcomes Research Index. Available at: www.ispor.org/workpaper/practices_index.asp . [Accessed January 1, 2017].
Figures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Numbered Title and legends; each on separate page (not embedded in text) 300 DPI; TIFF, JPG, EPS, and PDF file formats 	Cite figures consecutively as they appear in the text using Arabic numbers (eg, Figure 1, Figure 2, Figure 3A, etc). Refer to Figures section below for more information.

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Component	Format / Word Limit	Description
Tables	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Numbered• Title• Double-spaced; each on separate page (not embedded in text)	Tables should be clearly labeled, neatly organized, and easy to understand without reference to the text. Refer to Tables section below for more information.

4. Figures

Figures should each be submitted as a separate image file, not embedded in the manuscript document or in a slide presentation. Cite figures consecutively as they appear in the text using Arabic numbers (eg, Figure 1, Figure 2, Figure 3A, etc). Each figure must be assigned a brief title (as few words as possible, and reserving abbreviations for the legend) and include a legend. The corresponding legend should be double-spaced on a separate page. All symbols, arrows, and abbreviations must be explained in the legend.

If authors provide usable color figures with their accepted article, the journal will ensure (at no additional charge) that these figures will appear in color on the web (eg, ScienceDirect and other sites) regardless of whether or not these illustrations are reproduced in color in the printed version. However, there is a charge for color reproduction in the print version of the journal. Authors will receive information regarding the costs from Elsevier after receipt of your accepted article. Please indicate your preference for color in print or on the web only.

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Please be sure to delete any identifying patient information such as name, social security number, etc. Photographs in which a person's face is recognizable must be accompanied by a letter of release from that person explicitly granting permission for publication in the journal. For any previously published material, written permission for both print and electronic reprint rights must be obtained from the copyright holder. For further explanation and examples of artwork preparation, see Elsevier's Author Artwork Instructions at www.elsevier.com/artwork.

5. Tables

Tables should be clearly labeled, neatly organized and easy to understand without reference to the text. Statistical estimates should indicate parameter estimates and, as appropriate, t ratios or standard error, statistical significance, sample size, and other relevant information.

All abbreviations must be explained in alphabetical order below each table (eg, DCE indicates discrete choice experiment; EMA, European Medicines Agency; MCDA, multiple criteria decision analysis).

6. Supplementary Material or Supplementary Data

Authors may submit appendices that describe either methods or results in more detail if these are needed for clarity of understanding by either peer reviewers or readers. If appropriate, materials suitable for web publication but not print publication (eg, audio or video files, see below) can also be submitted. If submitted, indicate the particular reasons for the appendix and whether you are submitting it for possible web publication or simply for peer review purposes.

Value in Health accepts audio and video files as ancillaries to the main article. Audio files should be in .mp3 format; the recommended upper limit for the size of a single file is 10 Mb. Video files should be submitted in .mpg or .mp4 format, the recommended upper limit for the size of a single file is 10Mb. Any alternative format supplied may be subject to conversion (if technically possible) prior to online publication.

7. Survey Instrument

For papers analyzing preferences, *Value in Health* requires the submission of a copy of the survey instrument (translated into English if published in a different original language) used to generate the preference data. This is to help facilitate the review process, and the survey instrument need not appear in a final publication. If the authors wish the questionnaire to be published with the paper, it should be submitted through the journal's online submission system as part of the paper. If the questionnaire is not intended to be published with the paper, it should be uploaded as "Supplemental File for Review" so that reviewers can view it as a supplemental appendix.

III. EDITORIAL PROCESS

Peer Review

For the past few years, *Value in Health* has demonstrated double-digit percentage increases in the journal's impact factor (currently 3.824). The journal is now rated 3rd out of 74 journals in health policy and sciences, 8th of 87 journals in health care sciences, and 10th of 344 journals in economics (social sciences).

The journal has also witnessed more than a 50% increase in submissions over the past 5 years. As a result, the editors now find it necessary to reject many more papers without peer review, including ones that may be suitable for publication in other leading journals. In 2016, the journal's overall rejection rate was nearly 90%. Although we recognize that authors never want to hear that their papers are rejected, we also know that they value a fast response time. That said, the editors strive to return decisions on papers that are not sent out for an external peer review within 2 weeks.

On the other hand, all manuscripts that are deemed appropriate for *Value in Health* after initial screening will be reviewed by at least two peer reviewers. The objective of the journal is to complete peer review and reach an editorial decision within 6 to 8 weeks of submission, at which time the corresponding author will receive written notification, including anonymous feedback from the reviewers.

Value in Health expects the highest ethical standards from their authors, reviewers, and editors when conducting research, submitting papers, and throughout the entire peer review process. *Value in Health* subscribes to the [Committee on Publishing Ethics](#) (COPE) and supports COPE [Ethical Guidelines for Peer Reviewers](#).

IV. PUBLISHING PROCESS

Proofs

Proofs will be sent electronically to the authors to be checked carefully for printer's errors. Substantive **changes or additions to the edited manuscript are not allowed at this stage**. Corrected proofs must be returned to the publisher within 48 hours.

Offprints

The corresponding author, at no cost, will be provided with a PDF file of the article via email. For an extra charge, paper offprints can be ordered via the offprint order form which is sent once the article is accepted for publication. The PDF file is a watermarked version of the published article and includes a cover sheet with the journal cover image and a disclaimer outlining the terms and conditions of use.

V. PUBLISHING POLICIES AND DISCLOSURES

Ethics in Publishing

For information on Ethics in Publishing and Ethical guidelines for journal publication see <http://www.elsevier.com/publishingethics> and <http://www.elsevier.com/ethicalguidelines>.

Submission Declaration

Submission of an article implies that the work described has not been published previously (except in the form of an abstract or as part of a published lecture or academic thesis), that it is not under consideration for publication elsewhere, that its publication is approved by all authors and tacitly or explicitly by the responsible authorities where the work was carried out, and that, if accepted, it will not be published elsewhere (either in whole or in part, in print or electronic form, in English or in any other language, etc) without the written consent of the copyright holder.

Data, Models, and Methodology

All authors must agree to make their data available at the editor's request for examination and re-analysis by referees or other persons designated by the editor. All models and methodologies must be presented in sufficient detail to be fully comprehensible to readers.

Open Access

In recent years, the importance to authors of open access has been increased by the policies of major research funders in many countries, requiring that the publications arising from the work they fund should be freely available to all. Although *Value in Health* is a traditional subscription-based journal, authors can choose to pay to have their articles published with open access (immediately and permanently free for everyone to

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read and download). The current fees for open-access publishing are accessible on the publisher's website at www.elsevier.com/journals/value-in-health/1098-3015/open-access-options. However, because *Value in Health* is a Society journal, all the published content automatically becomes open archive (freely accessible to all) 1 year after publication. Therefore, authors needing their articles to be open access to meet the requirements of various research competitions and awards may not need to pay for open access publication in *Value in Health*, depending on the precise requirements of their research funders.

In addition, the co-editors-in-chief nominate selected articles throughout the year that they believe are likely to have a high impact and therefore merit immediate "free" access on the publisher's website at <http://www.valueinhealthjournal.com> for a specified period of time (ie, 90 days). Access is restricted for the remainder of the 12-month period, after which point the article becomes open archive and freely accessible to all 1 year after publication.

Conflict of Interest and Copyright Assignment Forms

All authors must disclose any financial and personal relationships with other people or organizations that could inappropriately influence (bias) their work. As part of the online submission process, all authors are required to complete and submit the [ICJME Form for Disclosure of Potential Conflicts of Interest](#). Examples of potential conflicts of interest include employment, consultancies, stock ownership, honoraria, paid expert testimony, patent applications/registrations, and grants or other funding. See also <http://www.elsevier.com/conflictsofinterest>.

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