**Dove Press – Peer Review Guidelines**

**Guidelines for Peer-reviewers**

All papers submitted to Dove Medical Press are subject to peer review.

Peer reviewers should provide an objective critical evaluation of the paper in the broadest terms practicable. Reviewers need to make a recommendation to the Editor-in-Chief by deciding on a rank between 1-9, where 1 is well-written and 9 needs a lot of work to make it acceptable.

You should also indicate if the manuscript requires its English grammar, punctuation or spelling to be corrected (there is a prompt for this).

Your report must contain a recommendation and a description of your reasons for that recommendation. If you believe the paper needs changes to be made before it is acceptable, please make suggestions on how to improve the paper.

Consideration should be given to whether the paper is suitable for the journal it is submitted to. Each journals' aims and scope is available on the left of its home page.

**Deadline for completion of peer-review**

We request that you provide your input via the DoveCentral link on our website. The invitation sent to you provides a date when we require to have received your comments.

**Conflicts of interest**

You may not undertake a peer review on a submission if you are unable to do so objectively.

To review our peer-review conflict of interest policy please click **[here](http://www.dovepress.com/peer_reviewer_COI.pdf" \t "_blank)**. This may be printed out and faxed back to our editorial offices at:

**Our philosophy on peer review**

This guide is written to help you peer review a manuscript submitted to one of the Dove Medical Press journals. It is written by our Medical Director.

Reading this should answer most of the queries you have and guide you in completing a peer review in the most thorough and prompt way to help ensure the paper is properly reviewed and published quickly. If you have any further queries please email me directly at [scott.fraser@dovepress.com](mailto:scott.fraser@dovepress.com).

Authors have historically complained of the time it takes to get a paper published. Dove tries hard to get papers through as thoroughly, fairly and rapidly as possible. As a result reviewers are asked to submit their comments within two weeks.

Dove uses anonymous peer reviewers as it feels this is the best way to get honest opinions on papers. Dove requires that peer reviewers not contact authors directly.

Reviewers should remember that the Editor-in-Chief of each journal is using your comments as a guide.

**Some reviewers comments are:**

* The reviewer has suggested plagiarism, research fraud, or redundant (duplicate) publication. This is very rare and it is likely that the Editor or Publisher will get in touch with the author to discuss this event. If you wish to know more about this area, please do have a look at the COPE website (<http://publicationethics.org/>)
* The English is too poor. Dove journals are English language journals and papers must be readable in English. Many authors’ first language is not English and understandably there may be errors in the paper. Dove encourages authors to get a native English speaker to check the paper before they submit it.
* The paper has no ‘narrative’. An academic paper is no different from other types of written information. It has to make logical sense. The paper has to ‘flow’ and show why the study/review was done, how it was done, what results were found, what conclusions were drawn for these results. This is how the paper’s audience will understand what the author has done and how their paper will be remembered by them. If it is difficult to understand why and how the author did the study, the reader is unlikely to pay much attention to the paper.

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