

World Medical Journal
Official Journal of the World Medical Association

Author Guidelines
Updated June 2026

As the official journal of the World Medical Association (WMA), the *World Medical Journal* is a quarterly online publication that reflects the organization's mission, priorities, and activities. The journal aims to highlight emerging trends and novel developments in medicine that enhance physicians' awareness of pressing global health issues. Its content includes medical ethics and human rights, medical science, professional practice and education, environmental health, and contributions from WMA leadership. The journal also features regional and national medical association (NMA) news, providing a platform for reporting on regional developments and NMA initiatives. Furthermore, it offers Junior Doctors Network (JDN) members a dedicated space to address key issues affecting junior doctors in clinical and research training.

1. General Information

Authors are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the *World Medical Journal* format by reviewing the Author Guidelines and previous issues available on the [journal website](#). We also recommend consulting the [BMJ Author Resources](#) as a valuable reference for producing clear, high-quality scientific writing.

Most content published in the *World Medical Journal* is solicited from WMA members and other health professional experts on key medical topics relevant to the global medical community. However, WMA members are strongly encouraged to submit their own article proposals for consideration. Authors should first provide the editorial team with a brief description of the proposed article for initial evaluation and feedback. Once a submission has been solicited or approved, authors should email the completed manuscript and accompanying materials to the Editor in Chief (editor-in-chief@wma.net) by the specified deadline. The subject line of the email should clearly indicate "WMJ Submission" followed by the proposed article title and corresponding author's name.

2. Authorship

To promote meaningful contribution by all listed authors, the journal limits authorship to four authors for 1,500-word manuscripts, five authors for 2,000-word manuscripts, and six authors for 2,500-word manuscripts. Authors must meet the authorship criteria established by the [International Committee of Medical Journal Editors](#). Authors should provide a brief description of their individual contributions to the manuscript. Individuals involved in the preparation of the article, who do not meet the criteria for authorship, should be recognized in a one-sentence acknowledgment statement describing their specific role.

Examples of the Author Contribution statement:

- “AB, CD, and EF conceptualized the design and prepared the original manuscript draft. All authors critically reviewed and revised the manuscript and approved the final version for publication.”
- “AB and CD conceptualized the design and prepared the original manuscript draft. EF and GH contributed to the conceptual development of the paper. All authors critically reviewed and revised the manuscript and approved the final version for publication.”
- “AB and CD designed the study framework and conducted the literature review. EF and GH analyzed and interpreted the findings and drafted the manuscript. All authors critically reviewed and revised the manuscript and approved the final version for publication.”

3. Format

As general guidance, authors are encouraged to adhere to the following criteria when preparing their manuscripts. Authors should support their scholarly opinions, perspectives, analyses, and statements with appropriate citations from the evidence-based literature.

Article type	Definition	Maximum word count (article text)	Maximum reference count
Report	Shares key highlights of a medical event or public forum at the local, national or international level	2,000	20
Commentary	Describes a scholarly opinion on an existing or emerging topic in medical education and ethics	2,000	20
Analysis	Offers a critical analysis on key medical or policy debates at the local, national or international level	1,500–2,500	15–25
Book review	Presents a summary of a non-fiction book or textbook with relevance to the medical community	1,500	10

Authors should prepare their manuscripts in a Word document using 12-point Times New Roman, 1-inch margin, double spacing, and British English spelling and style. Abbreviations should be used sparingly and defined upon first mention in the text. Submissions should include author information (full name, degrees, primary institutional affiliation, city/country, email), article text, and all accompanying materials (profile photo, tables, graphics).

4. Deadlines

Authors are expected to adhere to the submission deadlines for each quarterly issue of the *World Medical Journal*, as outlined below:

Issue month	Submission deadline
March	February 15
June	May 15
September	August 15
December	November 15

5. Photographs and Images

Authors may submit a maximum of three high-quality photographs and images, each requiring a one-sentence caption, full photographer credit, and cited sources (where applicable). The figure caption should indicate whether the visual was AI-generated or AI-edited. It is the author's responsibility to obtain and document all necessary copyright permissions. Photographs should be submitted as separate files in standard formats (e.g., PNG or JPG for image files).

6. Tables and Figures

Authors may submit a maximum of four tables and figures, each requiring a one-sentence caption and cited sources (where applicable). The intended placement of each table or figure within the manuscript should be clearly indicated in the text (e.g., "(Figure 1)" or "(Table 1)"). Tables should be embedded in the appropriate location within the manuscript, while figures should be submitted as separate files in standard formats (e.g., XLS or PPT for source files and PNG or JPG for image files).

7. References

References should primarily include peer-reviewed manuscripts published within the past five years. The in-text citations (e.g., [1]) and the reference list (formatted in numerical order) should follow the Vancouver referencing style. The [Vancouver Citing and Referencing Style](#) guide, prepared by Monash University, provides a useful resource for correct citation formatting.

- Example of journal article with less than three authors:
 - Author AA, Author BB, Author CC, Author DD. Title of article. Abbreviated title of journal. Date of publication YYYY Month DD; volume number(issue number):page numbers. Language (if not English).
- Example of journal article with more than six authors:
 - Author AA, Author BB, Author CC, Author DD, Author EE, Author FF, et al. Title of article. Abbreviated title of journal. Date of publication YYYY Month DD; volume number(issue number):page numbers. Language (if not English).
- Example of textbook:
 - Author AA. Title of book. # edition [if not first]. Place of Publication: Publisher; Year of publication. Pagination. Language (if not English).

- Example of a chapter in a textbook:
 - Author AA, Author BB. Title of chapter. In: Editor AA, Editor BB, editors. Title of book. # edition. Place of Publication: Publisher; Year of publication. p. [page numbers of chapter]. Language (if not English).
- Example of a website:
 - Author/organization's name. Title of the page [Internet]. Place of publication: Publisher's name; Date or year of publication [updated YYYY Month DD; cited YYYY month DD]. Language (if not English). Available from: URL

8. Editorial Review Process

Each article will be reviewed by the *World Medical Journal* editorial team for content, quality, and grammar. Submission does not guarantee publication in the *World Medical Journal*. By submitting their articles, authors grant permission for the WMA and the *World Medical Journal* to use the submitted content, including photographs, tables, and figures, for internal circulation and promotional purposes, with appropriate attribution. Articles or graphical materials that promote or imply discrimination on the basis of gender, sexual orientation, race or ethnicity, religion, disability or age, will not be accepted for publication.

For high-quality articles, the *World Medical Journal* editorial team will work closely with authors throughout the editorial process. Authors are expected to remain available during this period and respond promptly to editorial feedback, typically within 48–72 hours upon request. Given the comprehensive nature of the editorial process, adherence to specified deadlines is essential to ensure inclusion in the relevant issue. The editorial team will provide the accepted manuscript in layout (proof) format for authors to submit send any final revisions and approve the final version prior to publication. Accepted articles may be published as e-prints and selected for publication in a subsequent issue, subject to available space.

9. Originality and Plagiarism

Authors are fully responsible for ensuring the originality and scholarly integrity of their submitted and published articles, and must avoid all forms of academic and scientific misconduct, including plagiarism. Plagiarism is defined as the use of another person's intellectual property (such as ideas, data, words, or images) as one's own, without proper acknowledgment. If any material (e.g., text or graphics) has been previously published, in whole or in part, authors are responsible for obtaining the necessary permissions from the original authors and publisher prior to submission.

10. Use of Artificial Intelligence Tools

Authors should also include a one- or two-sentence disclosure statement describing any use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools in the preparation of their written content (e.g., for text editing, research design, or analysis) or images (e.g., AI-generated visuals), along with relevant details (e.g., name, version, and pertinent prompts) of the tool used.

Examples of the AI Disclosure statement:

- “The author used artificial intelligence tools for language editing and proofreading to improve grammar, structure, and clarity. AI-generated or AI-edited visuals are identified in the corresponding figure captions. The intellectual content, analysis, and conclusions remain entirely those of the author.”
- “The author confirms that no artificial intelligence tools were used in the preparation of this manuscript.”

11. Questions

If you have any questions regarding your submission, please contact the Editor in Chief (editor-in-chief@wma.net).

Submission Checklist

Title Page (Word document)

- Full title of article
- Abbreviated title of article (for header)
- Full name and academic degree of each author (e.g., MD, MBBS, PhD, MPH)
- Institutional affiliation (maximum of two), city/country, and email address of each author
- Author Contribution Statement
- AI Disclosure Statement

Main Document (Word document)

- Main text, including in-text citations
- List of final references in Vancouver style
- Table with one-sentence descriptive caption and cited sources (when applicable)

Accompanying Documents (submitted as separate files) (optional)

- Profile photo of each author (e.g., PNG or JPG) (recommended)
- Photograph (e.g., PNG or JPG) with a one-sentence descriptive caption, full photographer credits, and cited sources (where applicable)
- Figure (e.g., XLS or PPT for source files and PNG or JPG for image files) with a one-sentence descriptive caption and cited sources (where applicable)