

Ethical statement in medical research manuscripts: A Necessary step for quality control

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Abstract

Recently there are several budding medical journals which are coming from developing countries and also there is a large number of publishers. It will foster medical research from these countries. Authors will improve the skill of medical writing because of these journals senior, experienced international/ national editorial and review board. Also this team is responsible for the quality of the journal. Journals primary aim should not be making money and get other benefit to the people who are dealing with it. Journals should produce evidence based new information to

the medical science which will benefit to the new generation physicians, scientists and readers.

There is a tremendous increase in the medical research articles in the recent years because most of the institutions, universities and funding agencies consider the publication history of the scientists for their promotion and incentive. It results with good practice and bad practice of research. There are several scientists and teaching faculty members who publish the articles without proper data or they plagiarise other scientist work. It can be stopped only by the national medical research authorities like Indian Council of Medical Research [India], Nepal Health Research Council [Nepal], etc. for each country level and the Institutional Research and Ethics Committee in the institutional level.

Keywords: Ethics, Medical Research, Nepal, Declaration of Helsinki

Background

Recently there are several budding medical journals which are coming from developing countries and also there is a large number of publishers. It will foster medical research

from these countries. Authors will improve the skill of medical writing because of these journals senior, experienced international/ national editorial and review board. Also this team is responsible for the quality of the journal. Journals primary aim should not be making money and get other benefit to the people who are dealing with it. Journals should produce evidence based new information to the medical science which will benefit to the new generation physicians, scientists and readers¹.

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When coming to the journal level then Chief Editor is responsible for the ethics in a manuscript published in a journal and it is his duty to reject the fraudulent research paper submitted to the journal. So whenever a manuscript submitted to the journal first step is to find out whether the ethical statement in the manuscript is well written and the ethical approval letter is genuine. If these criteria are not fulfilled then the journals like Nepal Journal of Epidemiology will reject the manuscript in the preliminary editorial review round.

Components which should be mandatory in a good medical research Manuscript

1. Ethics approval should be obtained prior to the commencement of the study from the Institutional Research and Ethics Committee which is approved by the national medical research authority [Indian Council of Medical Research, Nepal Health Research Council etc or Institutional Research Council] and the scanned copy send to the journal managing editor and clearance number should be written in the manuscript.
2. Written/ verbal consent should be taken from the patients while acquiring the data and it should be mentioned in the manuscript if it is a clinical study.
3. Informed consent should be taken from the parents or guardians on the behalf of participants aged less than 18 years.
4. The research should be conducted in accordance to the Declaration of Helsinki.
5. Researcher should cite the latest Declaration of Helsinki for ethical statement in the manuscript.

Importance of Citing the latest Declaration of Helsinki for ethical statement in medical research manuscripts³⁻¹⁰

The World Medical Association has developed the Declaration of Helsinki as a statement of ethical principles

Ethical statement in medical research

to provide guidance to physicians and other participants in medical research involving human subjects. Medical research involving human subjects includes research on identifiable human material or identifiable data. It is the duty of the physician to promote and safeguard the health of their patients. Knowledge and awareness of the physician are dedicated to the fulfilment of this duty. The Declaration of Geneva of the World Medical Association binds the physician with the words, "The health of my patient will be my first consideration." The International Code of Medical Ethics declares that, "The physician shall act only in the patient's interest to foster care physicians who may be able to weaken the mental and physical fitness of patient"¹¹. All provisions of the Declaration of Helsinki should be followed, especially the need for appropriate ethical and scientific review. Because of these reasons the researcher should cite the Declaration of Helsinki in medical research manuscripts.

Conflict of interest:

None

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