

**Journal Liaquat National Hospital (JLNH)** is published by Liaquat National Hospital and Medical College (**LNH&MC**). It is a peer-reviewed, open access, multi-disciplinary medical journal which serves as means for scientific information exchange in the national and international medical forum. JLNH aims to publish high quality basic, clinical and allied medical research, and advances in medical education. Our mission is to publish the best research and information at the intersection of biomedical sciences and clinical practice and to present this information in comprehensible and clinically effective formats that improve health care practice and patient outcomes.

All manuscripts submitted in the journal are subject to statistical evaluation (in the case of original articles) and peer-reviewing process. The manuscript's abstract is published online on the journal's website if it is finally approved by the editor and this process (Submission to E-Pub Abstract) generally takes almost 70 to 80 days.

## 1. Manuscript Submission

**Journal Liaquat National Hospital (JLNH)** only accepts online manuscript submission. It is mandatory to submit Undertaking form and institutional ethical approval along with the manuscript. No manuscript will be accepted and responded without Undertaking form and institutional ethical approval. Although JLNH is an open access journal, there is currently no publication cost involved upon submission or publication of a manuscript. The journal is not providing either any subscription services.

Manuscript can be directly submitted to <https://journals.lnh.edu.pk/JMS>. To get Undertaking form click here [Undertaking Form](#).

## 2. Authorship Criteria

- The journal follows the guidelines of COPE and ICMJE criteria for authorship available at: <https://www.icmje.org/recommendations/browse/roles-and-responsibilities/defining-the-role-of-authors-and-contributors.html>
- and ICMJE uniform requirements/recommendations for the conduct and reporting, editing publication of scholarly work in Medical Journals available at: [www.icmje.org/recommendations/browse/manuscript-preparation/preparing-for-submission.html](http://www.icmje.org/recommendations/browse/manuscript-preparation/preparing-for-submission.html)

## 3. Categories of Articles

**Journal Liaquat National Hospital (JLNH)** publishes the below mentioned articles. The detailed guideline for each type of article is provided. Failure to follow the provided guidelines may result either in delayed manuscript process or article rejection.

### 3.1. Original Research Article

A manuscript will be considered as Original Research Article if it is an observational study or Randomized Control trial (RCT). For RCT, it is mandatory to be registered with International Registry and must have a Trial Number. The length of original research article should be 2000-2500 words exclusive of abstract and references. There should be 20-25 references. Number of tables and/or illustrations can be at most three within a manuscript and should be provided at the end of manuscript.

**An original research article would only be processed with the Ethical Approval Letter (ERC)/ Institutional Review Board Letter (IRB) on the organizational letter head with proper signatures and stamp. Exemption letter is only accepted in case of retrospective study. The author must submit this letter at the time of article submission.**

**According to ICMJE, a clinical trial is any research that prospectively assigns people or a group of people to an intervention, with or without concurrent comparison or control group, to study the relationship between a health-related intervention and a health outcome. Health-related**

**interventions include drugs, surgical intervention, devices, behavioral treatment, educational program, dietary program. Health outcomes include any biomedical or health-related measures obtained in research participants including pharmacokinetic measures and adverse events. For Clinical trial, it is mandatory to be registered (either prospectively or retrospectively) with International Registry and must have a Trial Number.**

It is suggested that authors prepare their manuscripts using the template available on the journal's website, which will assist in preparation of the manuscript according to Journal's Format [Download the Template](#).

There must be following section (in the same sequence) within the original article:

**a) Abstract:** There should be a structured abstract up to 200-250 words. The abstract should reflect the content of the paper including methods used, results and conclusion drawn. The subheading in the abstract should include: a) Background b) Objective c) Methods (d) Results e) Conclusion.

**Note:** structured abstract is mandatory for the original/research articles.

**b) Keywords:** 6 to 8 keywords should be included at the end of an abstract. Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) can be used from the list of index medicus.

**c) Introduction:** Should provide a context or background for the study and include rationale, objectives and hypothesis (where necessary). Cite only directly pertinent references, and do not include data or conclusion from the work being reported. It is desirable to cite maximum 10 references within this section. The purpose of the study should be given at the end of the introduction.

**d) Methodology:** Should include only information that was available at the time the plan or protocol for the study was being written; all information obtained during the study belongs to the Results section. Methodology usually entertains: a) Description of the study participants including exclusion and inclusion criteria b) Technical information like instrument used, drugs or chemical used and all methods and procedures should be mentioned so that other researchers can reproduce the results. References should be given for establishing methodology as applicable c) Statistical methods with enough details to enable the reader for clear understanding of the methodology. Details of statistical methods include study design, sample size calculation (with reference), statistical tools used, P-values and confidence interval and statistical package used for data analysis with its version.

If an organization was paid or otherwise contracted to help conduct the research (examples include data collection and management), then this should be mentioned in the methods in detail. A statement indicating that the research was approved by an independent local, regional or national review body (e.g., ethics committee, institutional review board) should also be included. Data should not be five years older.

**e) Results:** Present your results in logical sequence in the text, tables, and figures, giving the main or most important findings first. Do not repeat all the data in the tables or figures, in the text; emphasize or summarize only the MOST important observations. Extra or supplementary materials and technical details can be placed in an appendix where they will be accessible but will not interrupt the flow of the text, or they can be published solely in the electronic version of the journal.

**f) Discussion:** Discussion should briefly summarize the main findings, and similarities or variations with other work done in same context. If the results vary, explore the possible mechanisms or explanations for the findings; emphasize the new and important aspects of the study and relate the implications of the findings in future research. Do not repeat in detail data or other information given in other parts of the manuscript, such as in the Introduction or the Results section. Limitations of the study should also be mentioned in this section in the last paragraph.

**g) Conclusion:** The summary of the study should be provided in separate heading of conclusion. Concepts that are already addressed should not be repeated in this section. Unnecessary generalizations should be avoided. The author can address the possible implications for current practices or give

recommendations only if applicable.

**h) Consent for Publication:** If an article contains any person's data, such as individual details, audio-video material, etc., individual's consent should be sought. In the case of children, parent's consent or legal guardian must be sought. All such case reports must be properly complied with before publication.

**i) Availability of Data:** The statement should describe how readers can access data that supports the findings of the study, and clearly outline the reasons why unavailable data cannot be published. Statements accompanying to data availability should be mentioned in the manuscript under a separate section "Availability of Data" in the following format:

- Authors confirm that data supporting the results of this study are available in the article.
- Data-sets generated or analyzed during the current study are not made public because [mention the reason].
- Authors who wish not to share their data should clearly state that the data will not be shared, and state "not applicable".
- Data-related statement should be presented in the following format:  
"Data supporting article's results is available at [repository name] at [URL], reference number [reference number]".

**j) Conflict of Interest:** Authors should declare all relevant interests that may be considered contradictory. Authors should explain why every interest can represent a conflict. If there is no conflict, the authors should state this.

**k) Funding Statement:** Authors should explain how research and publication of their article was funded, by the name of the sponsoring organization (fully written) and then the grant attached to the Square Letter. Number (s), for example: "This work was financially supported by [funding agency name] (Grant number xxx, yyy).

Similarly, If the study did not receive specific funding, but was performed as part of the authors' employment, please name this employer. If the fundraiser was involved in the decision to write, edit, approve, or publish the manuscript, please announce it.

**l) Acknowledgments:** The Acknowledgments section details special thanks, personal assistance, and dedications. Contributions from individuals who do not qualify for authorship should also be acknowledged here.

**m) Authors' Contribution:** Contribution of all authors should be disclosed within this section specifying the role of each author in following of the steps of manuscript preparation; study concept, designing, result analysis and interpretation, manuscript drafting, critical review and revision of initial draft. Authors' contribution should be according to the criteria of authorship suggested by [COPE](#). Initials should be used for referring individual authors. At the end of this section, a statement of manuscript reading and its approval by all author should be given.

**n) References:** References should follow the Vancouver style as per standards summarized in the NLM's International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) available at: [https://wayback.archive-it.org/org-350/20190414183852/https://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/uniform\\_requirements.html](https://wayback.archive-it.org/org-350/20190414183852/https://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/uniform_requirements.html)

All references should be numbered sequentially [in square brackets] within the manuscript. References should be listed in the following Vancouver Style.

**Reference lists should highlight current literature, with limited inclusion of older sources justified by relevance or originality.**

**All journal references must have a proper DOI at the end of the reference. The DOI must be hyperlinked.**

- **Journal:** Boehm M, Nabel EG. Angiotensin-converting enzyme 2 - A new cardiac regulator. *N Engl J Med* 2002; 347: 1795-7
- **Book:** Crabtree RH. The organometallic chemistry of the transition metals. 3rd ed. New York: Wiley & Sons 2001.
- **Book Chapter:** Hawkes C, Chopra M, Friel S. Globalization, trade, and the nutrition transition. In: Labonté R, Schrecker T, Packer C, Runnels V, Eds. *Globalization and Health: Pathways, Evidence and Policy*. London: Routledge 2009; pp. 235-62.
- **Conference Proceedings:** Jakeman DL, Withers SGE. Carbohydrate bioengineering: interdisciplinary approaches. *Proceedings of the 4th Carbohydrate Bioengineering Meeting*. Stockholm, Sweden, June 10-13, 2001.
- **Meeting Abstract:** Hoffman BJ. Metabolism: amino acid transporters as targets for therapeutic intervention. American Chemical Society - 228th National Meeting. Philadelphia, USA 2004.
- **Website:** Library of Medicine. Specialized information services: Toxicology and environmental health. Available at: [sis.nlm.nih.gov/sispagenotfound.html](http://sis.nlm.nih.gov/sispagenotfound.html) (Accessed on: May 23, 2009)
- **Thesis:** Mackel H. Capturing the spectra of silicon solar cells. PhD Thesis, The Australian National University, Canberra, Australia, December 2004.

### 3.2. Review Article

Overview and analysis of the topic with background and latest updates must be addressed in all kind of reviews i.e., systematic review, narrative review and evidence-based review in line with the original article. It should include original work of author on the similar subject. The suggested length for review article is 2500 to 3000 words with 40-50 references. The abstract should be non-structured for a Narrative Review article and structured for a Systematic Review or Meta-Analysis article with 200-250 words and 5 to 8 keywords respectively.

### 3.3. Case Report

A case report is a detailed document addressing unusual disease cases, discussing their diagnosis, treatment and patients' follow-up. The word count for case report should be 800-1200 words with 5-10 references and with a non-structured abstract of 150 words. There must be minimum 5 keywords. Maximum two figures and one table are accepted in case reports.

### 3.4. Case Series

A case series is a detailed document addressing unusual disease cases (4 to 10 cases), discussing their diagnosis, treatment and patients' follow-up. The word count for case series should be between 1,500 and 2,000 words with minimum 10 references and with a non-structured abstract of 150 words. There must be minimum 5 keywords. Minimum 4 figures and/or table are accepted in case series.

### 3.5. Short Communication

Short Communications are brief papers that provide original and important material for swift dissemination. For example, a brief communication might focus on a specific aspect of the problem or a new finding that is expected to have a significant impact. They may not normally exceed about 1500-1800 words and may have a non-structured abstract of about 150 words along with 10-12 references. There must be minimum 5 keywords.

### 3.6. Letter to the Editor

The letter to the editor should be Objective, constructive and purposeful. It should offer Novel or useful information and be worth publishing, either in addition to or in lieu of on previous opinions or experience to previous published articles. Letters should be short and be concise, with clear and specific points. It may not often exceed 500 words and 5-7 references.

### **3.7. Guest Editorials**

Guest Editorials should comprise of 400 words with 4-5 references. There can be maximum 3 authors. It is mandatory to state acknowledgment and funding disclosure if any.

### **3.8. Commentary**

A commentary is a short article covering a current issue that is pertinent to the journal's scope. It should not exceed more than 2500 words, including the abstract, keywords, main text, tables & figures (if any) with 15-20 references.

### **3.9. Clinical Audit**

A clinical audit is a quality improvement process that systematically reviews patient care against established standards to improve patient outcomes. It involves measuring current practices, identifying areas for improvement, implementing changes, and then re-auditing to confirm that the improvements have been effective. The suggested length for a clinical audit article is 1,500 to 2,000 words with 15-20 references. The rest of the article's format will remain that of an original article.

## **4. Table**

Tables should be given Arabic numbers (e.g. Table 3), and care should be taken to make them as simple as possible and avoid unnecessary details. The column heads should be made as brief as possible, using abbreviations liberally. Units should appear in parentheses in the column heading but not in the body of the table. There must be consecutive citation of tables within the manuscript. Tables should not be provided in picture format. Title should be given for all the tables and placed on top of the table. Footnotes should be provided as applicable. Reference/sources should be given if tables are adopted from other studies.

## **5. Illustrations (figures)**

Illustrations should not be inserted in the appropriate place in the text but should be included at the end of the paper, each on a separate page. Figures should be numbered consecutively according to the order in which they have been cited in the text. Figure caption should be given below the figure. In the manuscript, legends for illustrations should be on a separate page, with Arabic numerals corresponding to the illustrations.

High resolution image for photographs, X-ray, CT scan, MRI and photomicrographs is required in JPEG format. Patients' photograph should not be recognizable. Photographs should be sharp and of high-quality otherwise they may be sent back to author for replacement due to inferior quality.

### **5.1. Scaling/Resolution**

Line Art image type is normally an image based on lines and text. It does not contain tonal or shaded areas. The preferred file format should be TIFF or EPS, with the color mode being Monochrome 1-bit or RGB, in a resolution of 900-1200 dpi.

Halftone image type is a continuous tone photograph containing no text. It should have the preferred file format TIFF, with color mode being RGB or Grayscale, in a resolution of 300 dpi.

Combination image type is an image containing halftone, text or line art elements. It should have the preferred file format TIFF, with color mode being RGB or Grayscale, in a resolution of 500-900 dpi.

## 6. Unit of measurement

Units of measurements of length, height, weight, and volume should be reported in metric units (meter, kilogram, or liter) or their decimal multiples. Temperatures should be in degrees Celsius. Blood pressures should be in millimeters of mercury. Hematologic, clinical chemistry and other measurements may vary in terms of both local and International System of Units (SI). In such case, the alternative should be provided in parentheses where appropriate.

## 7. Abbreviation (symbols)

Use only standard abbreviations; use of nonstandard abbreviations can be confusing to readers. Avoid abbreviations in the title of the manuscript.

## 8. Reporting Guidelines

Authors are recommended to report guidelines issued by [EQUATOR NETWORK](#). [CONSORT](#) guidelines for randomized clinical trial, [STROBE](#) for observational studies, [CARE](#) for case studies/case reports, [PRISMA](#) for systematic reviews and meta-analyses, [COREQ](#) for qualitative research and [STARD](#) for diagnostic accuracy studies. These guidelines are available at [www.equator-network.org](http://www.equator-network.org).

**A completed checklist of the applicable guidelines must be submitted alongside the article.**

## 9. Registration of Systematic Review Articles

To promote transparency and research integrity, **LNH&MC** encourages authors to register their systematic reviews in established registries such as [PROSPERO](#). The registration number should be clearly indicated at the conclusion of the abstract.

## 10. Plagiarism Detection

All manuscripts submitted to **LNH&MC** journals will be assessed through Turnitin plagiarism software to assess deceived and dishonest manuscript submission. Manuscripts containing similarity index higher than 20% will not be entertained and will be sent back to author for correction. Guidelines provided by ICMJE, PMDC and HEC regarding plagiarism are being followed in **LNH&MC** journals which can be accessed at [www.icmje.org](http://www.icmje.org), <https://pmdc.pk/> and [www.hec.gov.pk](http://www.hec.gov.pk).

### Plagiarism and Similarity Index

As per HEC and PM&DC Guidelines for Recognition of Publications and Journals 2018, "Plagiarism shall be a punishable offence and any author found guilty of plagiarism will be liable for disciplinary action". It is ethically dishonest to submit plagiarized work. Authors are instructed to refrain from:

- **Direct Plagiarism:** When someone else's work is transcribed word to word.
- **Self-Plagiarism:** Authors' previous self-work is presented without being permitted by other co-authors/professors.
- **Mosaic Plagiarism:** When the author's language is slightly changed and phrases are used without using quotation marks.
- **Accidental Plagiarism:** When the author accidentally neglects to cite the source being quoted.

As per Turnitin plagiarism software, **LNH&MC** journals' editorial board will make a decision if the author is found guilty of plagiarism.

## 11. Copyright/Undertaking

Authors who publish in **LNH&MC** journals retain copyright to their work. Submission of a manuscript to the respective journals implies that all authors have read and agreed to the content of the undertaking form or the Terms and Conditions. It is a condition of publication that manuscripts submitted to a journal have not been published and will not be simultaneously submitted or published elsewhere. **LNH&MC** grants the author(s) to exercise the rights in the article published as stated below:

All articles are published under the [Creative Commons Attribution License](#) which permits unrestricted use, distribution and reproduction in any medium, provided that the work is properly cited.

## 12. Ethics Approval

When reporting on human studies, specify whether the following procedures were in line with the ethical standards of the committee responsible for human experiments (institutional or regional) and [Helsinki Declaration](#). For potential studies, relating to human partners, authors are expected to seek the approval of (Regional / National / Institutional or Independent Ethics Committee or Review Board), obtain informed consent from adult research participants, and expression of approval for children aged over 7 years participating in the trial. Ensure the confidentiality of articles by mentioning participants' names, initials or hospital numbers, especially in illustrative equipment. When writing experiments on animals, specify that the institution's or a national research council's guide for, or a national law on the care and use of laboratory animals [guide for the care and use of laboratory animals prepub](#) was followed.

The name of the relevant institutional review board and approval number should be disclosed with ethical considerations in the article. The experimental procedure of animals should be as human as possible and the details of anesthetics and analgesics should be clearly stated. Ethical standards of experiments should be in line with the guidelines provided by the CPCSEA of Helsinki and the World Medical Association Declaration on the ethical principles of medical research for the study of experimental animals and humans, respectively. The journal will not consider any paper that is morally unacceptable.

## 13. Use of AI Tools in Article

**LNH&MC** understands that authors rely on a broad spectrum of tools, varying from basic to advanced, when preparing articles related to their scientific work.

In line with [ICMJE](#) and [COPE](#) guidelines, AI tools do not meet the criteria for authorship, as they are incapable of assuming responsibility for the submitted work. Being non-legal entities, AI tools cannot declare conflicts of interest, nor can they engage in or execute copyright and licensing agreements.

Authors who employ AI tools in any stage of manuscript preparation—including text generation, creation of images or graphical elements, data collection, or data analysis—are required to provide a clear and detailed disclosure in the Materials and Methods section (or an equivalent part) of the manuscript. This disclosure must specify the name of the AI tool used and the precise manner of its application.

Authors retain full responsibility for the content of their manuscripts, including sections generated or assisted by AI tools, and will be held accountable for any breaches of publication ethics arising from their use.

## 14. Preprint

The journal does not accept articles that have already been made publicly available as **PREPRINTS**. Submissions must be original, unpublished works that have not been disseminated in any public repository or preprint platform prior to submission.

## Publication Ethics Statement

**LNH&MC** journals fully adhere to the [best practice](#) and [guidelines](#) of the Committee on Publication Ethics.

Editors of **LNH&MC** journals implement a strict peer review process and firm ethical policies and standards to make sure the increase of high-quality scientific research in the field of academic publishing. When we are cognizant of ethical issues, we are unswerving to investigating and taking essential actions to keep the literature's integrity and make certain the safety of research participants.

Scientific publishing involves a careful and systematic process by publishers and editors. This needs to be handled in an effective and proficient manner. Publishers always try to work closely with journal editors, authors, and peer reviewers for sustaining high ethical standards for high-quality scientific publishing.

The key points of Liaquat National Hospital and Medical College (**LNH&MC**) publishing ethics for all groups associated in the publishing process are as follows:

### Guidelines for Editors

- Journal editors have an important role in making important editorial decisions on all peer-reviewed articles submitted for publication.
- Editors should keep the lucidity of scholarly research and records, eliminate the need for professional cooperation with ethical standards, and be willing to publish retractions, corrections, and errata whenever necessary.
- Editors should evaluate the scientific quality and intellectual content of the manuscript, and must not make any biased decisions based on race, gender, geographic origin, or the author's religion. Editors should empirically assess the manuscript based on its academic value, without any commercial or personal interests.
- Editors shall not reveal any information related to the submitted articles before their publication.
- The integrity of the promotion of research must be maintained. If the publisher observes any type of misconduct in the research at any stage, it should conduct a prompt and detailed investigation under the appropriate authority. In addition, if any suspicious behavior is found during peer review, it should be resolved carefully.

### Guidelines for Reviewers

- Perform a detailed, productive and fair assessment of the scientific content of the work in a timely manner.
- State whether the article is relevant, concise, and clear, and evaluate originality and scientific accuracy.
- Keep the discretion of the entire review process.
- Notify journal editors of any monetary or individual conflicts of interest, and refuse to review manuscripts when there is a possibility of such conflicts.
- Inform the journal editors of any ethical issues that existed in their evaluation of the submitted articles, such as any defilement of the ethical treatment of animal and/or human subjects or any significant similarities between previously published articles and any reviewed manuscripts.

### Guidelines for Authors

- All works stated in the article must be novel and must not be plagiarized in any form.
- The work should not be published elsewhere or submitted to any other journal when submitted to **LNH&MC** journals.
- Must clearly admit any potential conflicts of interest.
- Appropriate acknowledgment must be given to other work (any individual, company or organization) cited/quoted. Any content used from other sources must be approved.



- Only those who have made any substantial contributions to the interpretation or composition of the submitted work can be listed as "authors". And other contributors should be called "co-authors".

## **Authorship**

This journal follows the guidelines of [COPE](https://www.copejournal.org/) and ICMJE criteria for authorship available at: <https://www.icmje.org/recommendations/browse/roles-and-responsibilities/defining-the-role-of-authors-and-contributors.html> which states authorship to be based on following criteria.

- Substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work; or the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data for the work; AND
- Drafting the work or revising it critically for important intellectual content; AND
- Final approval of the version to be published; AND
- Agreement to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

All those who have met authorship criteria, as stated in the ICMJE criteria, should be listed as authors and those that have contributed, but not enough to meet the authorship criteria should be acknowledged but should not be considered as co-authors.

## **Data Fabrication and Falsification**

Authors of submitted or published articles may be sanctioned and published articles may be withdrawn if found to have forged or falsified results, including image processing.

## **Citation Manipulation**

Authors who submit manuscripts that are found to contain citations whose primary purpose is to increase the number of citations to a given author's work or articles published in a particular journal may be subject to sanctions. Likewise, Editors and reviewers shall not require authors to include references simply to increase citations to their own or colleagues' work, the journal, or another journal related to them.

## **Multiple Submissions and Redundant Publications**

It is a condition of publication that manuscripts submitted to **LNH&MC** journals have not been published and will not be simultaneously submitted or published elsewhere. Redundant publication and inappropriate division of research results into multiple articles may result in rejection or request for combined submission of manuscripts and corrections to published articles.

## **Conflict of Interest**

Authors must clearly acknowledge financial contributions and any potential conflicts of interest that may be considered contradictory. Authors should explain why every interest can represent a conflict. If there is no conflict, the authors should state this, "The authors declare no conflict of interest". If conflicts of interest are revealed after publication, this may discomfit authors, editors and journals. It might be essential to post corrigendum or reassess the review process.

## **Data Backup Policy**

Backup procedures and policies are developed for two purposes, disaster recovery and file recovery. In the event of a catastrophe, due to a physical disaster, personnel error, or other misfortune, reliable backups must provide timely and accurate restoration of all functions of the organization.

**LNH&MC**, for its journals, ensures regular backup strategy of database, files and image of server for protecting and restoring data from accidental loss.

## Ownership

Journal of Liaquat National Hospital (JLNH) is owned and funded by the Liaquat National Hospital and Medical College (**LNH&MC**).

## Editorial Policy

For journal, the following publication policies are applied by **LNH&MC**.

## Copyright Letter/Undertaking Form

Authors who publish in **LNH&MC** journals retain copyright to their work. Submission of a manuscript to the respective journals implies that all authors have read and agreed to the content of the undertaking form or the Terms and Conditions. It is a condition of publication that manuscripts submitted to a journal have not been published and will not be simultaneously submitted or published elsewhere. **LNH&MC** grants the author(s) to exercise the rights in the article published as stated below:

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## Ethics Approval

When reporting on human studies, specify whether the following procedures were in line with the ethical standards of the committee responsible for human experiments (institutional or regional) and the 1975 [Helsinki Declaration](#). For potential studies, relating to human partners, authors are expected to seek the approval of (Regional / National / Institutional or Independent Ethics Committee or Review Board), obtain informed consent from adult research participants, and expression of approval for children aged over 7 years participating in the trial. Ensure the confidentiality of articles by mentioning participants' names, initials or hospital numbers, especially in illustrative equipment. When writing experiments on animals, specify that the institution's or a national research council's guide for, or a national law on the care and use of laboratory animals [guide for the care and use of laboratory animals prepub](#) was followed.

The name of the relevant institutional review board and approval number should be disclosed with ethical considerations in the article. The experimental procedure of animals should be as human as possible and the details of anesthetics and analgesics should be clearly stated. Ethical standards of experiments should be in line with the guidelines provided by the CPCSEA of Helsinki and the World Medical Association Declaration on the ethical principles of medical research for the study of experimental animals and humans, respectively. The journal will not consider any paper that is morally unacceptable.

## Funding Statement

Authors should explain how research and publication of their article was funded, by the name of the sponsoring organization (fully written) and then the grant attached to the Square Letter. Number (s), for example: "This work was financially supported by [funding agency name] (Grant number xxx, yyy).

Similarly, If the study did not receive specific funding, but was performed as part of the authors' employment, please name this employer. If the fundraiser was involved in the decision to write, edit, approve, or publish the manuscript, please announce it.

## Plagiarism Prevention

**LNH&MC** uses the Turnitin software to detect instances of overlapping and similar text in submitted manuscripts. Turnitin software checks content against a database of periodicals, the Internet, and a comprehensive article database. It generates a similarity report, highlighting the percentage of overlap

between the uploaded article and the published material. Any instance of content overlap is further scrutinized for suspected plagiarism according to the publisher's Editorial Policies. **LNH&MC** allows an overall similarity around 20% for a manuscript to be considered for publication.

### **Sanctions/Penalty**

Sanctions/penalty maybe implemented against authors if they are in any way found in the breach of contract/ethics policies depending upon level of ethical violations.

- Rejection of the submitted/in process manuscript(s).
- Not accepting any more manuscript for a definite period of time.
- Penalty maybe implemented against authors.

### **Plagiarism in Published Manuscripts**

Published manuscripts which are found to contain plagiarized text are retracted from the journal's website after careful investigation and approval by the Editor-in-Chief of the journal. A Retraction Note as well as a link to the original article is published on the electronic version of the plagiarized manuscript and an addendum with retraction notification in the particular journal.

### **Peer Review**

**Journal Liaquat National Hospital (JLNH)** follows the double-blind peer-review procedure for submissions of all manuscripts to its journals. The minimum time of the peer-review process is 30 days for any submitted manuscript.

All submitted articles are subjected to an extensive peer review in consultation with members of the journal's editorial board and independent external referees (usually two reviewers). All manuscripts are assessed rapidly and the decision based on all the peer reviewers' comments, taken by the journal's Editor-in-Chief, is then conveyed to the author(s).

### **Copyediting and Proofs**

Articles must be written in good English in a clear and correct style in order to maintain uniformity throughout the text. Articles submitted are copyedited before they are published.

### **Appeals and Complaints**

Generally, the editorial decisions are not reverted. However, authors who think that their manuscript was rejected due to a misunderstanding or mistake may seek an explanation for the decision. Appeals must give sound reasoning and compelling evidence against the criticism raised in the rejection letter. A difference of opinion as to the interest, novelty, or suitability of the manuscript for the journal will not be considered as an appeal. The EIC and other relevant editors will consider the appeal and the decision thereafter taken by the journal will be deemed final. Acceptance of the manuscript is not guaranteed even if the journal agrees to reconsider the manuscript, and the reconsideration process may involve previous or new reviewers or editors and substantive revision.

Authors who wish to make a complaint should refer them to the Editor-in-Chief of the journal concerned at [lnh@lnh.edu.pk](mailto:lnh@lnh.edu.pk).

### **Article Corrections and Retractions**

If there is any error found in published articles, publishers will consider an action needs to be taken and may consult editors and authors' institutions.

Errors by publishers is corrected by an erratum and errors by authors may be corrected by corrigendum.

If there is an error that notably affects the conclusion or there is an evidence of wrongdoing, it may be necessary to retract or express concern in accordance with the [COPE Retraction Guidelines](#).

- Retraction note titled "Retraction: [article title]" (e.g. Retraction: XYZ experiment involving ABC species) may be published in the paginated section of the journal's next scheduled issue and may also listed in the table of contents.
- Retraction instructions are approved by the editor-in-chief of the relevant journal.
- The link to the original article shall be displayed in the online version.
- A screen containing retracted instructions may appear before the article's electronic version on the website. On the screen, there shall be a link to the full article, i.e. retracted article.
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