Peer Review

What is peer review?

Peer review is the critical analysis of a scientific manuscript by experts in the same field as the manuscript’s author. Peer reviewers evaluate the validity of scientific claims made in the article, offer feedback on areas that might need improvement, and submit recommendations on the suitability of the paper for publication. Because peer review subjects the author’s writing to the scrutiny of others in the same specialty area, it serves to filter out poor quality research and encourages the author to meet the high standards of their discipline. It also ensures the continued integrity of medical research that directly impacts patients’ lives.

What are the benefits of participating in peer review?

- It encourages critical thinking: Peer reviewers become lifelong analytical thinkers who learn to question the ways in which they practice in their field.
- It improves writing skills: Peer reviewers learn a great deal by identifying and articulating weaknesses in other individuals’ articles, which in turn helps them recognize where they can improve in their own writing.
- It expands the reviewer’s knowledge base: Peer reviewers often learn new information in their specialty area by reading their peers’ work and interpreting the latest medical research in their field.
- It provides professional experience. Peer reviewers are expected to have the expert knowledge and critical appraisal skills necessary to ensure the standards of scientific writing are maintained. Thus, peer review is regarded as a prestigious undertaking that can be used in an individual’s credentials.

Who can participate in peer review?

- A peer reviewer can be any individual who has competence and expertise in the subject areas covered by the individual journal.
- A peer reviewer may have published articles in a similar specialty area in the past.
- A peer reviewer should have excellent critical analysis skills
- A peer reviewer should undergo training on how to conduct peer review (see below)

How can I learn more about peer review?

1. Conducting a Successful Peer Review for JDNA by Kiki Samko
2. Resources offered by WK/LWW
   Tutorials for Reviewers:
3. COPE Guidelines for Peer Review
   b. [https://publicationethics.org/peerreview](https://publicationethics.org/peerreview)

4. Nurse Author & Editor Resources:
   a. [Responding to Peer Review](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK29231/) by Annemarie Jutel, 2007, Volume 17, Issue 1

5. Civility in Nursing Peer Review: Giving and Receiving Feedback

6. The Contribution of Peer Review to Scholarly Publishing

7. Preserving Blind Peer Review of Electronic Manuscript Files

8. What Makes a Good Peer Review? An Author’s Perspective

9. Blind Peer Review: Tips for Authors, Reviewers, and Editors

10. On Ethical Peer Review and Publication: The importance of professional conduct and communication

11. Becoming a peer reviewer

12. Resources for Nursing Editors, Authors, and Peer Reviewers


14. Tips for Manuscript Reviewers

15. Confidentiality Standards for Reviewers

16. On Reviewing Well

17. English as a Foreign Language: Reviewing and Editing Manuscripts

References


Southwestern University, Debbie Ellis Writing Center. [Benefits of Peer Review](https://www.southwestern.edu/writingcenter/benefits-of-peer-review). Retrieved September 30, 2021