

POLICY

Peer Reviewer Selection

The choice of manuscript reviewers is an editorial decision, to be made by either the Editor-in-Chief or the Executive Editor, in consultation with the recommendations of the Editorial Board and, as needed, suggestions of the other Journal editors. For purposes of transparency, PEDIATRIC ETHICSCOPE makes public the following policy regarding how reviewers are chosen.

Reviewers shall be chosen based on their knowledge of the matter taken up in the manuscript under review. Reviewers will be selected based on their knowledge of, and expertise with, the material, as well as their ability to provide useful feedback to authors. Following WAME's Best Practice guidelines,¹ the following should be considered to have potential conflicts of interest:

1. Persons who have coauthored work with the author of the manuscript in recent years (10 years).
2. Persons working at the same institution as the author of the manuscript.
3. Persons who may have a non-financial conflict of interest, such as a known strong position on the topic under consideration in the manuscript.
4. Persons who have a potential financial conflict of interest.

PEDIATRIC ETHICSCOPE does not anticipate problems with peer review manipulation in the small world of pediatric ethics. However, to avoid any possibility of such manipulation, author-recommended reviewers will be considered only if the recommended party is known to the Editor-in-Chief or the Executive Editor beforehand, independently of the author of the manuscript under consideration.

While an author may submit a reviewer recommendation, the reviewer's contact information must be obtained independent of the author to ensure the reviewer's identity; the contact information of a reviewer should not be obtained from the author of the manuscript under consideration, and the email address should be scrutinized for irregularities.

¹ World Association of Medical Editors. Best Practices for Peer Reviewer Selection and Contact to Prevent Peer Review Manipulation by Authors.. <http://www.wame.org/about/policy-statements#Best%20Practices%20for%20Peer%20Reviewer%20Selection>. April 6, 2015. Accessed 18 July 2017.