

POLICY

Errata, Retractions, and Expressions of Concern

PEDIATRIC ETHICS SCOPE follows the opinion expressed in the Council of Science Editors (CSE) white paper, *Promoting Integrity in Scientific Journal Publications*,¹ regarding the publication of errata, retractions, and expressions of concern by readers. That position is as follows:

2.1.8 Errata, Retractions, and Expressions of Concern

Editors have a responsibility to maintain the integrity of the literature by publishing errata or corrections identifying anything of significance, retractions, and expressions of concern as quickly as possible (see section 3.5). When appropriate, they should provide a forum (e.g., letters to the editors) for offering responsible alternative opinions.

Errors in published articles require a published correction or erratum. These corrections should be made in such a way that secondary publication services, such as PubMed, will identify them and associate them with the original publication. Many online journals provide a direct link between the original article and the correction published later.

Editors should monitor the number and types of errors that appear in their journals. This review can be done simultaneously with the evaluation of other journal statistics. Editors should take corrective measures when there is evidence of an increase in preventable errors.

This policy is in line with the World Association of Medical Editors (WAME) Policy Statement on medical editor responsibilities,² which states editors should:

Promote self-correction in science and participate in efforts to improve the practice of scientific investigation by publishing corrections, retractions, and critiques of published articles, [and] take responsibility for improving the level of scientific investigation and medical writing in the larger community of potential authors and readers.

It is the policy of PEDIATRIC ETHICS SCOPE to adhere to these guidelines and recommendations in both print and electronic versions. Contact the Editorial Group through the information provided online with questions or concerns.

1. Council of Science Editors. White Paper on Promoting Integrity in Scientific Journal Publications. 2.1.8, p. 12. http://www.councilscienceeditors.org/wp-content/uploads/entire_whitepaper.pdf. 2012 Update. Accessed 22 June 2017.

2. World Association of Medical Editors. The Responsibilities of Medical Editors Policy Statement. <http://www.wame.org/about/policy-statements#Responsibility%20of%20Editors>. Posted 5 August 2003. Accessed 22 June 2017.