NIH Public Access Policy

Updates & Guidance

Beth Blackwood, MSLS
Research & Education Librarian
Lead for Research Impact

Duke University
Medical Center Library & Archives

NIH Public Access Policy: July 1, 2025

No Embargo Period: There will no longer be an embargo period for journals. Full-text must be made publicly available in PubMed Central **upon publication**.

Impact on Funding: Non-compliance with these new requirements could affect current and future funding opportunities, including grant renewals. It is crucial to adhere to these guidelines to maintain funding status.

Ongoing Challenges

- Impacts every article accepted after July 1, 2025
- Journal response is mixed and not researcher-friendly
  - Some offering new class of fees for deposit (American Chem. Society)
  - Some sending after-the-fact invoices (American Chem. Society)
  - Some do not allow submission of NIH-funded articles without fees (Elsevier, Springer Nature)
  - Some are allowing self-submission to PMC upon publication (Wiley, JAMA)

Current Guidance – Before Submitting

- Investigate the journal's policies prior to submission (use the "For Authors" page on the journal's website)
- Pay attention to what you agree to during the initial submission process, especially "other licenses" on your work
- Communicate with Journal Managers & Editors

Current Guidance – After Acceptance

- If the journal presents you with publication options:

  1) pay an APC to make their article Gold Open Access so it is freely available or

  2) publish under a subscription model, where article is published behind a pay wall and readers pay to access the article.

-**You will need to make a choice, balancing the amount of risk you take with the budget you have available for Open Access Fees**

Current Guidance – After Acceptance

- If a journal requires a 12-month embargo on the Author Accepted Manuscript and you have NIH funding, they will require you to pay for Open Access to comply.
- If you choose to submit to PubMed Central without paying for Gold Open Access with a journal that requires a 12-month embargo, **you do so at your own risk**.
- If the journal allows you to comply without payment, submit manually to PubMed Central as soon as possible
- You have the right to pull your article from publication, especially if you do not have funding to pay for Gold Open Access

Transformational/Read-Publish Agreements

- Duke's current options are:
  - Cambridge University Press (primarily non-medical titles)
  - BMJ Open Quality and BMJ Case Reports
- Why do we not have more of these?
  - Agreements with major publishers run well into the **hundreds of thousands of dollars**
  - These typically come from library budgets…

Opportunities for Advocacy

- If you or your lab has a primary or favored journal that doesn't allow authors to submit without paying APCs, **consider finding an alternative journal**;
- If you are a regular peer reviewer for a journal that doesn't allow authors to submit without paying APCs, **consider dedicating your UNPAID LABOR to an alternative journal**;
- If you are editor or board member at a journal that doesn't allow authors to submit without paying ACPS, **consider speaking up about this issue or finding an alternative journal for your UNPAID LABOR**

The Medical Center Library is here to help!

- Submission Guidance & Instructions (see QR code on the left)
- Automated compliance reminder emails
- Office Hours for extra support

(see QR code on the left)

https://duke.is/w/tt56

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We are here to help!

Contact us for questions, troubleshooting, and long-term planning:

nihpublicaccesscompliance@dm.duke.edu