



Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy for Authors and Peer Reviewers for ISSM Journals

1. Definition and Scope of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

For the purposes of this policy, artificial intelligence (AI) refers to computational systems capable of generating or transforming human-like content (text, data, code, images, or other media) based on large datasets or trained models. Examples include, but are not limited to, ChatGPT, Gemini, Copilot, Claude, and similar large language models (LLMs), as well as AI-based systems that produce or enhance graphics, analyze datasets, or summarize text. This policy governs the responsible use of such tools in both manuscript preparation and peer review for the ISSM Journals (including the Journal of Sexual Medicine, Sexual Medicine Reviews and Sexual Medicine Open Access).

2. Guiding Principles

Our policy on AI use is based on three core principles:

- **Authorship:** Only human contributors who can take responsibility for the integrity and originality of the work qualify as authors. AI systems cannot be listed or cited as authors.
- **Accountability:** Human authors and reviewers remain fully accountable for the accuracy, originality, and ethical compliance of any work produced or assisted by AI tools.
- **Disclosure:** All substantive uses of AI must be disclosed transparently within the manuscript and submission process.

3. Use of Generative AI and AI-Assisted Tools for Authors

Authors may use generative AI tools to support aspects of manuscript preparation—such as drafting sections of text, refining figures, conducting literature discovery, or improving organization—provided that:

- **Intellectual Control:** Authors retain full intellectual control and critically evaluate all outputs.
- **Prohibition on Fabrication:** AI tools must not be used to misrepresent, fabricate, or manipulate research data or findings.
- **Verification:** Authors must independently verify the validity of all cited references, the correctness of data drawn from those references, and the accuracy of all materials produced or assisted by AI.
- **Originality:** Authors must confirm that any AI-generated images or graphics are original, not plagiarized, and do not infringe on existing copyrights.



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4. Author Disclosure Requirements

Authors must include a disclosure statement before the References section under the heading: “Declaration of Generative AI and AI-Assisted Technologies in the Writing Process”.

Required Template:

“During the preparation of this work, the author(s) used [TOOL/SERVICE, VERSION] to [REASON — e.g., improve clarity/grammar, assist with figure generation, or summarize statistical output]. After using this tool/service, the author(s) reviewed and edited the content as needed and take full responsibility for the content of the publication.”

Disclosure is **not** required for routine utilities such as spell-checkers or reference managers that do not generate substantive content.

5. Policy Regarding Peer Review

The ISSM Journals discourage the use of generative AI to conduct peer reviews. Reviewers remain solely responsible for forming their own independent scholarly evaluations.

- **Public vs. Private Distinction:** You may not enter any part of a manuscript, abstract, or your review into a public AI tool (e.g., ChatGPT, Gemini, Claude). Even with "opt-out" settings enabled, entering content into public cloud environments violates the confidential nature of the peer-review process.
- **Permitted Use:** Reviewers may only use AI tools that are locally hosted or institutionally secured (e.g., university-sanctioned 'closed' instances) where data isolation is guaranteed by enterprise-level contracts.
- **Integrated Tools Warning:** Reviewers must be cautious of "integrated" AI tools, such as Adobe AI Assistant or Microsoft Copilot. Clicking "Summarize" or similar "helpful buttons" inside a PDF viewer often sends the manuscript content to a public cloud, resulting in an unwitting breach of confidentiality.
- **Disclosure:** If a permitted (institutionally secured) tool is used, the reviewer must disclose the tool's name and specific function in the Evaluation Form.
- **Confidentiality:** No manuscript content may be shared with any tool that does not guarantee data isolation, and reviewer confidentiality must be maintained at all times.



6. AI Detection and Integrity Checks

To maintain the integrity of the publishing process, the ISSM Journals employ a "policy-first, detection-second" approach:

- **For-Cause Detection:** AI-detection products (e.g., Turnitin, GPTZero) are treated as hints, not verdicts. High "predictability" scores can lead to false positives, especially for non-native English speakers.
- **Human Audit:** If an editor feels a review or manuscript is suspiciously vague or contains "hallucinated citations," a detection flag will trigger a deeper human audit rather than an automatic rejection.
- **Reviewer Notice:** All reviewer invitations will include the following warning:

"Please do not upload, paste, or quote any part of a manuscript or supplementary files into public AI tools such as ChatGPT, Gemini, or other large language models. Doing so violates author confidentiality and journal policy."

7. Ethical and Quality Considerations

While AI tools can enhance efficiency, they present risks including inadvertent plagiarism, biased or inaccurate content, and breaches of data protection. Authors and reviewers must exercise professional judgment to ensure manuscripts and reviews meet the highest scholarly and ethical standards. Failure to disclose the use of AI or misuse of these tools may result in requests for revision, rejection, or retraction.

8. Policy review and updates

Due to the rapid evolution of AI, this policy will be reviewed on a rolling six-month basis, to assess if any updates and/or changes are needed. Ad hoc updates and/or changes may be implemented in case of any major developments in the interim periods.

Suggested Reading

Dolechek, M. (2026, January 9). *AI in scholarly publishing — SSP Pulse Check Report*. The Scholarly Kitchen. <https://scholarlykitchen.sspnet.org/2026/01/09/ai-in-scholarly-publishing-ssp-pulse-check-report/>

Committee on Publication Ethics. (2023). *Artificial intelligence and peer review* [Seminar]. <https://publicationethics.org/guidance/seminar-and-webinar/artificial-intelligence-and-peer-review>