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Updating Publication Ethics Checklist

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In the April 2018 editorial, we introduced a publication ethics checklist to the esteemed readers of this journal for the first time (1). This checklist comprised the following eleven questions or points that esteemed authors were required to consider and address appropriately before submitting their manuscripts to the journal:

1. Obtaining and providing an ethical approval code
2. Obtaining and providing a study registration number, if applicable
3. Avoiding the manipulation of materials, equipment, processes, and data
4. Repeatedly verifying the data presented in the text and abstract to ensure their accuracy
5. Avoiding the verbatim copying of content from prior studies
6. Citing appropriate sources wherever previous studies are referenced
7. Avoiding the simultaneous submission of the manuscript to multiple journals
8. Refraining from omitting the names of individuals who meet the criteria for authorship
9. Refraining from adding the names of individuals who do not meet the criteria for authorship
10. Ensuring the final manuscript is read, approved, and accepted for authorship responsibility by all authors
11. Declaring any conflicts of interest by the authors

In the current editorial, we intend to update this checklist by adding one more item. The twelfth item poses the following question:

12. Has any generative artificial intelligence tool been utilized in drafting the manuscript? If yes, which tool was used, and how?

In recent years, a variety of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools have been developed. One of the most prominent among these, known as Chat Generative Pre-trained Transformer (ChatGPT), was introduced in late 2022. Since one of the primary applications of generative AI is the production of new concepts and ideas, its utilization in drafting health science articles has increasingly expanded (2).

The applications of generative AI in manuscript writing span a very broad spectrum. At one end of this spectrum, generative AI assists in correcting and refining the language of a manuscript. Conversely, at the other end of the spectrum, this tool is employed to draft fundamental sections of an article or even analyze its data (2).

While utilizing generative AI as an editor can be beneficial in improving the language of health science articles, relying on it as an author to write various sections of a manuscript risks the incorporation of sources that it has fabricated itself and which have no external reality. This issue could severely undermine the foundations of science and expose the authors of such articles to expulsion from the scientific community.

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Consequently, the *Journal of Rafsanjan University of Medical Sciences* requests all its authors to ensure that if they use such tools while writing their manuscripts, they explicitly inform the editor-in-chief, editorial staff, and reviewers about the type of tool utilized and the exact manner of its application.

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