

HCHS/SOL Publications Committee Statement on the Use of Generative AI

Date: August 21, 2025

Purpose: To ensure responsible and transparent use of generative AI* tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Gemini, Claude, Open Evidence) in scholarly writing for the HCHS/SOL while protecting scientific integrity, participant confidentiality, and intellectual property.

General Guidelines:

- **Refer to Evolving Professional Guidance:** Rather than creating a detailed static internal policy that may quickly become outdated, we encourage investigators to consult the latest guidance from trusted authorities, e.g.: [International Committee of Medical Journal Editors \(ICMJE\)](#);** [APA Generative AI Guidance](#). Also see [NIH Notice on the Use of AI in Peer Review \(NOT-OD-23-149\)](#) and [NIH Statement on Generative AI in NIH-Funded Research \(NOT-OD-25-132\)](#).
- **Always:** Consult the policies of the target journal or funding agency for specific disclosure and authorship standards.

Central Principles:

- **Confidentiality:** To ensure participant confidentiality, adherence to data use agreements, and participant informed consent agreements, and to protect intellectual property, uploading or pasting any of the following into generative AI tools is not permitted:
 - Any data that contains a personal identifier (name, date, address, etc.);
 - Any participant level dataset, even if personal identifiers have been removed;
 - Confidential or proprietary materials (participant-related, or scientific).
- **Transparency:** Consult journal or organizational (e.g., NIH) requirements for uses of generative AI that require disclosure, and how they should be disclosed.
- **Accountability:** Human authors are fully responsible for the accuracy, originality, and compliance with ethical standards of all scholarly writing. Human verification, editing, and validation (by confirming the accuracy of all content, citations, links, etc.) is critical.

Reminder: Free and commercial AI tools often retain user inputs and may use them for model training, unless explicitly opted out through institutional agreements.

Notes:

***Generative AI** = Tools that generate new content (e.g., text, code, images) in response to prompts, based on patterns learned from large datasets.

**Excerpted ICMJE guidelines

4. Artificial Intelligence (AI)–Assisted Technology. At submission, the journal should require authors to disclose whether they used Artificial Intelligence (AI)–assisted technologies (such as Large Language Models [LLMs], chatbots, or image creators) in the production of submitted work. Authors who use such technology should describe, in both the cover letter and the submitted work in the appropriate section if applicable, how they used it. For example, if AI was used for writing assistance, describe this in the acknowledgment section (see Section II.A.3). If AI was used for data collection, analysis, or figure generation, authors should describe this use in the methods (see Section IV.A.3.d). Chatbots (such as ChatGPT) should not be listed as authors because they cannot be responsible for the accuracy, integrity, and originality of the work, and these responsibilities are required for authorship (see Section II.A.1). Therefore, humans are responsible for any submitted material that included the use of AI-assisted technologies. Authors should carefully review and edit the result because AI can generate authoritative-sounding output that can be incorrect, incomplete, or biased. Authors should not list AI and AI-assisted technologies as an author or co-author, nor cite AI as an author. Authors should be able to assert that there is no plagiarism in their paper, including in text and images produced by the AI. Humans must ensure there is appropriate attribution of all quoted material, including full citations.” Access the website for the most recent version <https://www.icmje.org/icmje-recommendations.pdf>
