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Why we use this form:

We occasionally receive manuscripts that we cannot consider for publication, because they violate one of our journal policies. Because writing a manuscript takes substantial time and effort, we wish to avoid the situation of authors writing something that we cannot use. Please review the following policies and submit this form before beginning your manuscript. If you have any questions about this, please contact us before proceeding.

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We expect our authors to be experienced clinicians familiar with critically reviewing and analyzing the medical literature, and experienced with the medical publishing process. We also expect that any author who agrees to write an article for us or whose topic we approve will serve as first author as well as corresponding author. We wish to avoid the situation of having a less experienced writer serving as first or corresponding author unless we have approved this arrangement at the start. Also, we do not permit medical or other students to serve as authors, and we require that resident physicians, if involved with the manuscript, work with an experienced attending physician who will serve as first and corresponding author. If the submitted manuscript has a different first and corresponding author than what was agreed to, we may either reject the manuscript, or insist that the solicited/proposing author serve as first and corresponding author of the revised manuscript. We also expect articles to be written by one to, at most, three authors. In our experience, including more than three authors leads to an uneven quality paper. In addition, having multiple authors makes it more difficult to comply with the ethical standards of scholarship, which include the requirement that each author makes substantive contributions to the conception, research, analysis, and writing of the manuscript. For further information about our authorship policy, please see:

<http://www.aafp.org/afp/2008/0501/p1226.html>, as well as the section on mentoring authors in: <http://www.stfm.org/fmhub/fm2010/March/Barry208.pdf>

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I agree to serve as first and corresponding author of the original and revised manuscript, and limit the number of authors to 1-3.

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Conflict of Interest attestation

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With the accessibility of online sources, some authors commit what's been called copy-paste writing: copying a passage from another article and pasting it into their own. Or, they simply change a few words, thinking that that's sufficient to make the two texts different. This represents what's been called "the too-perfect paraphrase."

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