

## ***AFP Author Attestation Form***

### **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.

### **First and corresponding author attestation**

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>

Please indicate your agreement with this policy by signing below:

**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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**Name**

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**Date**

### **Conflict of Interest attestation**

NOTE/IMPORTANT: the Conflict of Interest form must be signed and returned by any and ALL AUTHORS you plan to have as co-authors. We use this attestation in order to avoid the situation of your writing a manuscript that we cannot consider because of a violation of our conflict of interest policy. Our policy precludes us from considering manuscripts written by an author who has a financial relationship with any commercial entity that may have an interest in the subject matter of the article within the previous 36 months. This includes serving on a speaker's bureau or advisory board, or receiving research support related to the subject matter of the article, as well as other relationships detailed in our conflict of interest policy:

<http://www.aafp.org/journals/afp/authors/guide/coi.html>

Please indicate your agreement with this policy by signing below:

**I have read the Conflict of Interest policy, and will have all authors submit this form before writing the manuscript.**

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Name

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Date

### Originality of Work Attestation

Most authors are aware of the need to cite any sources they use for statements in their manuscript. However, not all authors are aware of the need to be original in the phrasing and presentation of their text. Even if you appropriately cite a certain source, it's important that you convey its information in your own words. The writing should not closely resemble the original source—it should be different enough that a casual reader would not think that two passages were essentially the same text. And in cases where the writing is an exact duplicate, it should be enclosed in quotation marks.

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."

**From:** <http://ww2.nsc.edu/library/types.html>:

**The "Too-Perfect Paraphrase":** The writer properly cites a source, but neglects to put in quotation marks text that has been copied word-for-word, or close to it. Although attributing the basic ideas to the source, the writer is falsely claiming original presentation and interpretation of the information."

Both of these forms of writing essentially copy from another source, and represent a type of plagiarism, though certainly not as egregious as copying from another's work and failing to cite the original source. These forms of improper writing are especially prevalent in review articles, which by nature are based on other sources for the information conveyed. In any event, it's important that articles written for *AFP* be original in their writing, and that authors convey the information in their own words and presentation.

Please indicate your acknowledgment of this policy by signing below:

**I agree that the writing and presentation of this manuscript will represent original work. I will inform all co-authors of the need to avoid closely paraphrasing other sources, even when appropriately cited.**

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Name

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Date

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