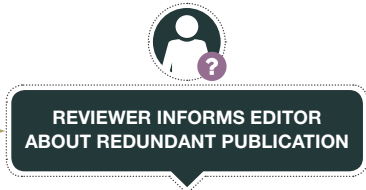


**REDUNDANT (DUPLICATE) PUBLICATION  
IN A SUBMITTED MANUSCRIPT**

**Notes**

- The instructions to authors should state the journal's policy on redundant publication.
- To help in future investigations, ask authors at submission stage to verify that their manuscript is original and has not been published elsewhere.
- During investigations, it may be helpful to request the institution's policy.
- International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) advises that translations are acceptable but **MUST** reference the original.

Redundancy may be detected by text-matching software (eg, Crossref Similarity Check)



Thank reviewer and say you plan to investigate. Get full documentary evidence if not already provided

Check extent and nature of overlap/redundancy

Major overlap/redundancy (ie, based on same data with identical or very similar findings and/or evidence that authors have sought to hide redundancy, for example, by changing title or author order, or not citing previous papers)

Minor overlap with some element of redundancy or legitimate overlap (eg, methods) or re-analysis (eg, subgroup analysis/extended follow-up/discussion aimed at different audience)

No significant overlap

Contact corresponding author in writing, ideally enclosing signed authorship statement (or cover letter) stating that submitted work has not been published elsewhere and documentary evidence of duplication

Contact author in neutral terms expressing concern/explaining journal's position. Explain that secondary papers must refer to original and/or remove overlapping material

INFORM REVIEWER OF DECISION AND PROCEED WITH REVIEW

INFORM REVIEWER OF OUTCOME/ACTION AND PROCEED WITH REVIEW

No response

Attempt to contact all other authors (check Medline/Google for current affiliations/emails)

Author responds

Unsatisfactory explanation/admits guilt

Satisfactory explanation (honest error/journal instructions unclear/legitimate republication)

No response

WRITE TO AUTHOR (ALL AUTHORS IF POSSIBLE) REJECTING MANUSCRIPT, EXPLAINING POSITION AND EXPECTED FUTURE BEHAVIOUR

Write to author (all authors if possible), explaining position and expected future behaviour. Consider if need for rejection or revision

Contact author's institution requesting your concern is passed to author's superior and/or person responsible for research governance

KEEP CONTACTING INSTITUTION EVERY 3-6 MONTHS

INFORM REVIEWER OF OUTCOME/ACTION

CONSIDER INFORMING AUTHOR'S SUPERIOR AND/OR PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR RESEARCH GOVERNANCE

Inform author(s) of your action

Cite this as:  
COPE Council.  
COPE Flowcharts  
and infographics –  
Redundant (duplicate)  
publication in a  
submitted manuscript  
– English.  
<https://doi.org/10.24318/cope.2019.2.12>  
©2021 Committee  
on Publication Ethics  
(CC BY-NC-ND 4.0)

Version 2:  
November 2015.

