**Reviewer Expresses Suspicion of Fabricated Data**

Thank reviewer, ask for evidence (if not already provided) and state your plans to investigate. Consider getting a second opinion from another reviewer.

- **Contact author to explain your concerns but do not make direct accusations**
  - **Author responds**
    - **Satisfactory explanation**
      - Inform all authors that you intend to contact institution/regulatory body
    - **Unsatisfactory explanation/admits guilt**
      - Inform all authors that you intend to contact institution/regulatory body

- **Apoloise to author, inform reviewer of outcome and proceed with review**
  - **Contact authors’ institution(s) requesting an investigation**
    - **Author(s) found not guilty**
      - Inform reviewer of outcome
    - **Author(s) found guilty**
      - Contact regulatory body (e.g., GMC for UK doctors) requesting an enquiry
    - **No response**
      - Contact regulatory body (e.g., GMC for UK doctors) requesting an enquiry

- **Inform reviewer of outcome/action**
  - **Reject manuscript**
  - **Apoloise to author(s) and proceed with review**
    - **Contact authors’ institution(s) requesting an investigation**
      - **Author(s) found not guilty**
        - Inform reviewer of outcome
      - **Author(s) found guilty**
        - Contact regulatory body (e.g., GMC for UK doctors) requesting an enquiry
      - **No or unsatisfactory response**
        - Contact regulatory body (e.g., GMC for UK doctors) requesting an enquiry