

# ACADEMIC MEDICINE

Journal of the Association of American Medical Colleges



Tomorrow's Doctors, Tomorrow's Cures®

Please use the following topics and questions to guide your review:

## I. General Questions

- **Clear message:** Please summarize the main question, issue, or problem. If the primary message is difficult to synthesize, please tell us how the presentation of the message can be strengthened.
- **Contribution to the literature:** What contribution, if any, does this manuscript make to the body of knowledge about the topic it addresses? Is the issue, or the authors' approach to it, original? Relevant? Timely? Innovative?
- **Potential to change thinking and/or practice:** Does this information have the potential to change thinking and/or practice? How will the article influence its field?
- **Quality of manuscript:** Is this manuscript well written? Does the abstract reflect accurately what the manuscript says? Are the references up to date and relevant?
- **Additional comments:** Does the manuscript have any other strengths or weaknesses that you would like to comment on?

*\*Please skip sections II, III, and IV if the article you are reviewing does not have a research component.*

## II. Manuscripts with a Research Component

- **Research question:** Is it clearly defined and appropriately answered?
- **Introduction/background/rationale:** Is appropriate literature cited? Is the current study situated within an appropriate context of prior work?
- **Overall design of study (Method):** Appropriate and adequate to answer the research question?
- **Results:** Credible? Well presented? All elements of Method section accounted for in Results section, and vice versa?
- **Conclusions:** Justified by the results? Limitations are acknowledged? Implications of findings are evaluated? Description of potential future work in this area?
- **For survey research:** Do the authors justify that the sample is representative of the population?
- **For qualitative research:** Was the sampling strategy clearly described and justified? Was the sampling strategy theoretically comprehensive to ensure the generalizability of the conceptual analysis (diverse range of individuals and settings, for example)?
  - How was the fieldwork undertaken? Was it described in detail?
  - Were the procedures for data analysis clearly described and theoretically justified? How were themes and concepts identified from the data?

### III. Manuscripts with a Statistical Component

- **Design features of the study:** Was the objective of the study sufficiently described? Was an appropriate study design used to achieve the objective? Was there a satisfactory statement given of source of subjects? Was a pre-study calculation of required sample size reported? If applicable: Were reliability and validity of the study instrument accounted for? Was the development and piloting of the instrument described?
- **Conduct of study:** Was a satisfactory response rate achieved?
- **Analysis and presentation:** Was there a statement adequately describing or referencing all statistical procedures used? Were the statistical analyses used appropriate? Was the presentation of statistical material satisfactory? Were the confidence intervals given for the main results? Was the conclusion drawn from the statistical analysis justified?
- **Recommendation on paper:** Is the paper of acceptable statistical standard for publication?

### IV. Manuscripts that Involve Research with Human Participants

Do the authors state that ethical approval or waiver from a formal institutional committee (e.g., an Institutional Review Board) was obtained? If not, do the authors describe how human participants were treated, addressing issues such as how risks to subjects were minimized, why the risks are reasonable in relation to anticipated benefits, if the selection of subjects was equitable, what procedures were put in place to ensure privacy and confidentiality, a plan to monitor the data and safety of the subjects, how informed consent was sought and appropriately documented, and what safeguards were put in place to protect vulnerable populations (if applicable)?

### V. Recommendation to the Editor and Confidential Notes to the Editor

*\*Please write your recommendation and any notes to the editor directly in the Editorial Manager's confidential note field for reviewers.*