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INFORMED CONSENT POLICY

INTRODUCTION

Patients have a right to privacy that should not be violated without informed consent. Identifying information, including names, initials, or hospital numbers, should not be published in written descriptions, photographs, or pedigrees unless the information is essential for scientific purposes and the patient (or parent or guardian) gives written informed consent for publication. Informed consent for this purpose requires that an identifiable patient be shown the manuscript to be published.

Authors should disclose to these patients whether any potential identifiable material might be available via the Internet as well as in print after publication. Patient consent should be written and archived with the journal, the authors, or both, as dictated by local regulations or laws.

1. INFORMED CONSENT

All authors should ensure that the planning conduct and reporting of human research are in accordance with the Helsinki Declaration as revised in 2013 (www.wma.net/policies-post/wma-declaration-of-helsinkiethical-principles-for-medical-research-involving-humansubjects/).

All authors should seek approval to conduct research from an independent local, regional, or national review body (e.g., ethics committee, institutional review board). If doubt exists whether the research was conducted in accordance with the Helsinki Declaration, the authors must explain the rationale for their approach and demonstrate that the local, regional, or national review body explicitly approved any unusual aspects of the study.

Approval by a responsible review body does not preclude the Editor-in-Chief from forming their own judgment whether the conduct of the research was appropriate.

As a publisher, the Critical Care and Resuscitation Journal will ensure that authors have received Informed Consent where appropriate before submitting their article for publication.

The data and information of individuals (e.g., information obtained through a doctor–patient relationship) must be handled with the highest levels of confidence and discretion. It is therefore almost always necessary for authors to obtain written informed consent from any patients described in case reports and from those who are the subject of photographs.

However, a report may be published without explicit consent if it meets all three of the following conditions:

- it is of great significance to public health (or is important in some other way),
- consent would be unusually difficult to obtain,

- a reasonable individual would be unlikely to object to publication.

References and sources

- International Committee of Medical Journal Editors
- Helsinki Declaration

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