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NIH Public Access Policy: The fundamentals

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August 2022 Office of Science Technology and Policy Memo: *Ensuring Free, Immediate, and Equitable Access to Federally Funded Research*

Required federal agencies to:

- 1) Update their public access policies as soon as possible, and no later than December 31st, 2025, to make publications and their supporting data resulting from federally funded research publicly accessible without an embargo on their free and public release;
- 2) Establish transparent procedures that ensure scientific and research integrity is maintained in public access policies; and,
- 3) Coordinate with OSTP to ensure equitable delivery of federally funded research results and data.



Effective July 1, 2025

NIH Public Access Policy

1. Requires Author Accepted Manuscripts (AAMs) that are accepted for publication in a journal on or after July 1, 2025, be submitted to PubMed Central (PMC)
 - upon acceptance for publication
 - for public availability
 - without embargo
 - upon the Official Date of Publication
2. An acknowledgment of Federal Funding in the AAM and Final Published Article
3. When submitting the AAM to PubMed Central, agreeing to a license granting NIH the right to make the article available in PMC



Scope

The NIH Public Access Policy applies to any Author Accepted Manuscript accepted for publication in a journal, on or after July 1, 2025, that is the result of funding by NIH in whole or in part through:

- A grant or cooperative agreement, including training grants,
- A contract,
- An Other Transaction,
- NIH intramural research, or
- The official work of an NIH employee.

The NIH Public Access Policy applies

- regardless of whether the NIH-funded principal investigator or project director is an author, and
- regardless of whether non-NIH funds contributed to developing or writing the Author Accepted Manuscript.

Upon the Effective Date, this Policy replaces the 2008 NIH Public Access Policy.

Definitions

Open Access (OA): Immediate, unrestricted worldwide access to scholarly content; authors retain their copyright and can specify how their work is reused (e.g. Creative Commons). Publishing OA often incurs additional charges, referred to as Article Processing Charges (APCs).

Public Access: Availability of peer-reviewed scholarly outputs, including publications and data, without cost. Public Access reflects the U.S. government's commitment to let taxpayers read and access the results of federally funded research for free.

Public Access Policy (PAP): A policy or mandate requiring public access to research results. PAPs exist for many federal funders - including NIH - ensuring that the public has access to the taxpayer-funded research.

More Definitions

Author Accepted Manuscript (AAM): The author's final version that has been accepted for journal publication and includes all revisions resulting from the peer review process, including all associated tables, graphics, and supplemental material.

Final Published Article (FPA): The journal's authoritative copy, including journal or publisher copyediting and stylistic edits, and formatting changes, even prior to the compilation of a volume or issue or the assignment of associated metadata.

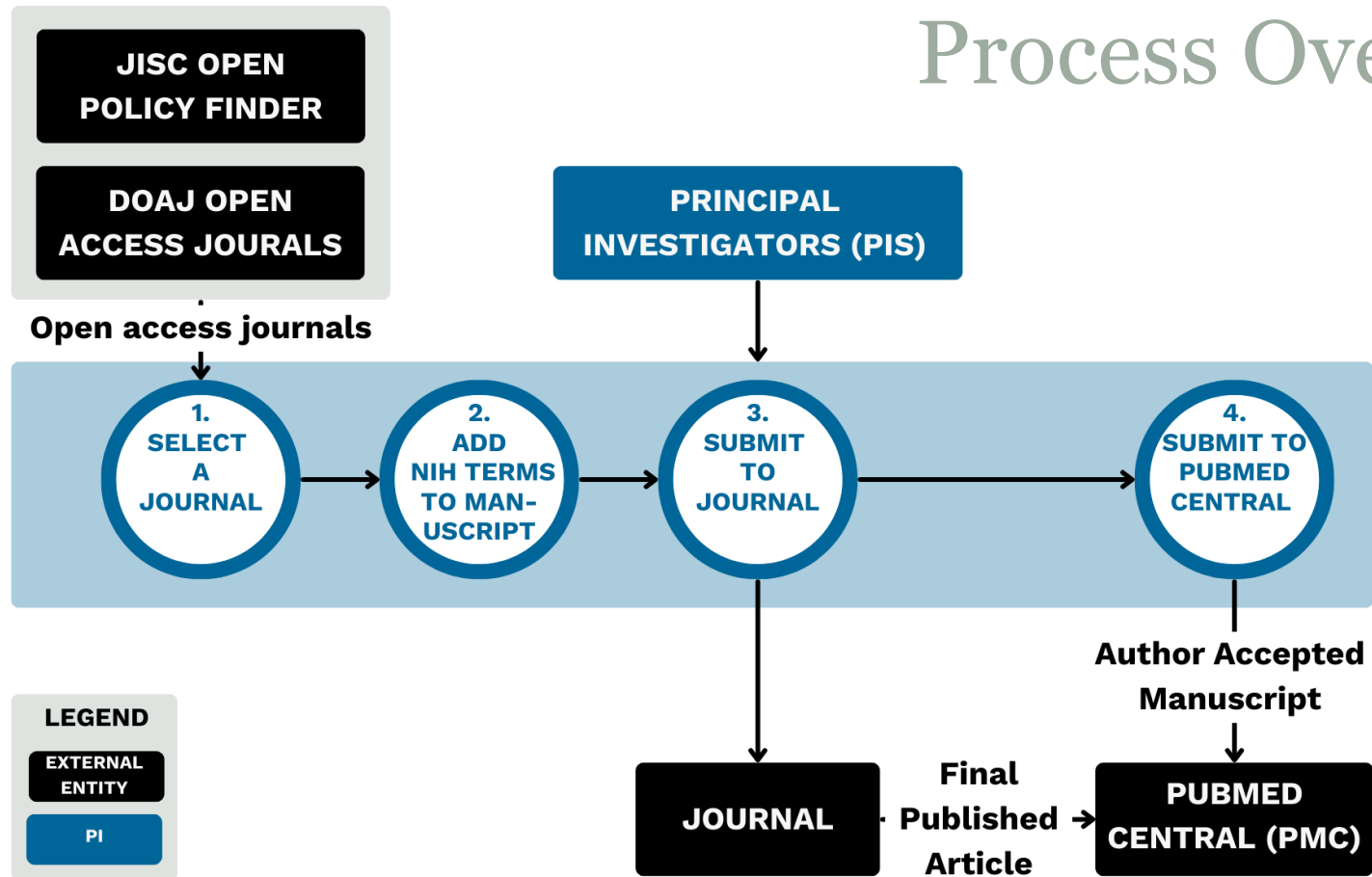
PubMed Central (PMC): a free full-text archive of biomedical and life sciences journal literature at the U.S. NIH's National Library of Medicine (NLM)

Date of Publication: The date on which the Final Published Article is first made available in final, edited form, whether in print or electronic (i.e., online) format.

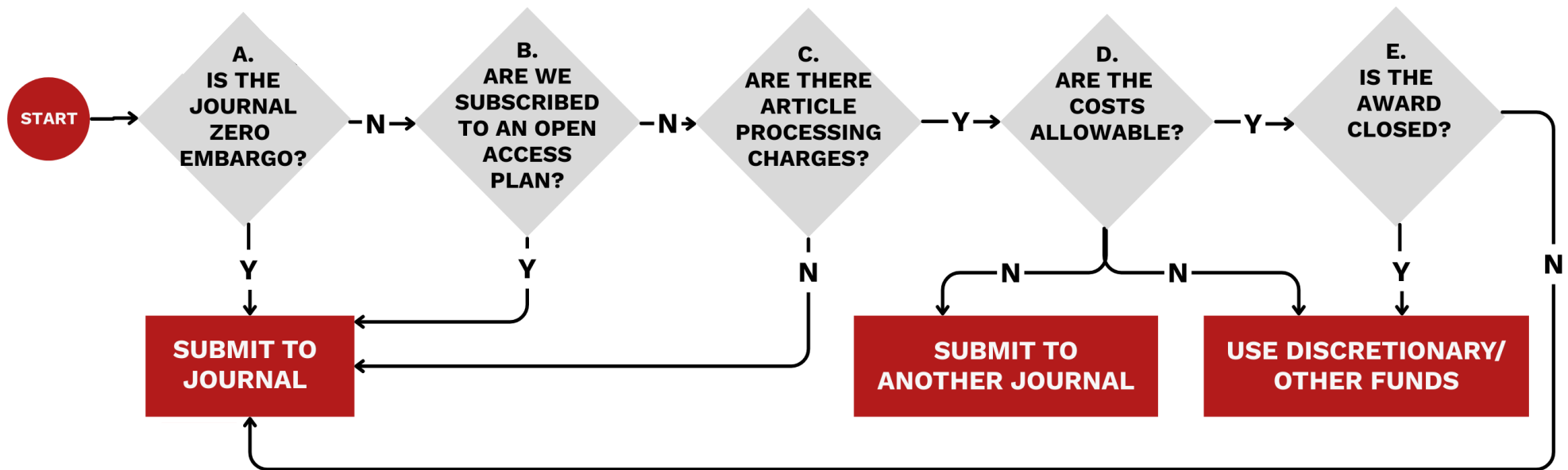
This one's important:

Publishing Open Access does not - by itself - fulfill the requirements of NIH's PAP, nor is it required by the NIH's PAP; manuscripts must be submitted to PMC.

Process Overview



Step 1: Select a Journal



Step 1A: Does the journal allow zero embargo?

Nature
Publisher: [Nature Research](#) | ISSN: 0028-0836 | eISSN: 1476-4687

← Back to search results Report an error

Journal Policy | Open Access Compliance | Transitional Agreement Look-up | Journal Details | Record Information

Version:
☒ Show all ☐ Published ☐ Accepted ☐ Submitted

Published Option with associated OA fees, no embargo & CC BY licence
[Show](#)

Published Option with associated OA fees, no embargo & CC BY-NC-ND licence
[Show](#)

Accepted Option with 6 months embargo & Publisher's Bespoke License licence
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Submitted Option with no embargo
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[Accepted manuscript terms of use](#)
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Read the Journal Policies!

[JISC Open Policy Finder](#)

[Directory of Open Access Journals](#)

[PMC Journal List](#)

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3D Printing in Medicine
[See all articles in PMC from this journal](#)

NLM Title Abbreviation:	3D Print Med
Publisher:	BMC
ISSN (online):	2365-6271
NLM Unique ID:	101721758
Earliest:	v.2 2016
Most Recent:	v.11 2025
Release Delay (Embargo):	0 months (Immediate release)
Agreement Status:	Active
Agreement to Deposit:	All articles

FILTERS [Clear Filters](#) ⓘ

RELEASE DELAY (EMBARGO) ⓘ
☒ Immediate release (2755)
☐ Less than 12 months (28)
☐ 12 months (471)
☐ More than 12 months (5)

AGREEMENT STATUS ⓘ
☒ Active (2755)
☐ No longer published (422)
☐ No longer participating (305)

AGREEMENT TO DEPOSIT ⓘ
☐ All articles (2738)

Journals with agreements with NLM to submit to PMC as part of publishing process

Step 1B: Does Cornell have any agreement to help cover the costs of OA/zero embargo?

Support for Cornell Authors

Financial support for Cornell authors

- [Cambridge University Press OA waiver](#)
Cornell authors may publish open access at no charge in Cambridge University Press journals that offer an OA option. Select United States/Cornell to view a list of eligible journals and next steps for authors.
- [Institute of Physics Open Publishing](#)
From 2024, Cornell authors can now publish OA in almost all IOP & Electrochemical Society titles at no additional charge. Important notes: A few journals have page charges that are not covered by these agreements. In addition, journals from the American Astronomical Society are not included in the R&P model because the AAS does not support Read & Publish agreements – they require APCs for all OA articles.
- [Royal Society](#)
From January 2025, Cornell authors who are Corresponding Authors on articles in all Royal Society journals, including Philosophical Transactions A & B, can publish without paying an APC. This initial agreement runs through the end of 2027.
- [Royal Society of Chemistry](#)
From April 2024, Cornell authors who are Corresponding Authors on articles in all RSC Hybrid and Gold OA journals, including RSC Advances, can publish without paying an APC. This agreement has been extended to run through the end of 2027.

[Support for Cornell Authors](#) [Support for WCM Authors](#)

Overview

- [What is Open Access?](#) - a guide from Open Access-NL
- [Open Access Overview from Peter Suber](#) - archived by MIT

Local Resources

- [eCommons](#) - this public access repository is powered by DSpace, and is available for anyone at Cornell University as a place to capture, store, index, preserve and redistribute Cornell faculty, staff, student or organizational research materials in digital formats.
- [Library Consultation "Open Access Publishing & NIH Policy"](#) - sign up for a consultation.
- [NIH Public Access Policy](#) - the library's page will aid you in complying with this [National Institute of Health mandate](#). The version of the policy starting 07/01/25 allows for immediate public access to NIH-funded work without the need to pay any OA fees. If your publication is NIH-funded, your work will be made publically available immediately.

Open Access Publishers Who Waive Fees for WCM Authors

- [Bioscientifica](#)
- [Cambridge University Press](#) - Select 'United States' as your country and 'Cornell University' as your institution
- [Karger Open Access](#)

Open Access Publishers Who Waive Fees for everyone

- [Directory of Open Access Journals](#) - filter by 'Without Fees' and 'Medicine'

Publishing, Distribution, Alternative Modules and Resources

- [SPARC](#) - The Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition - show your support for expanded access to

Step 2: Add NIH Terms to Manuscript

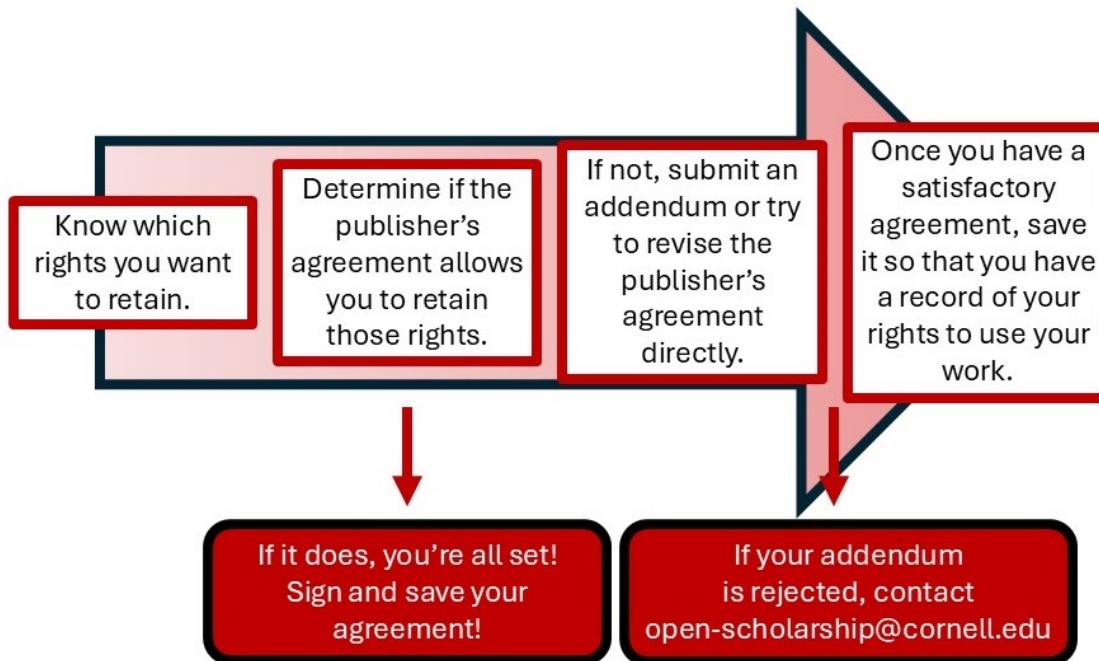
Add a clear, public-facing acknowledgement of NIH funding in the Author Accepted Manuscript and Final Published Article.

NIH suggests the following:

“This manuscript is the result of funding in whole or in part by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). It is subject to the NIH Public Access Policy. Through acceptance of this federal funding, NIH has been given a right to make this manuscript publicly available in PubMed Central upon the Official Date of Publication, as defined by NIH.”

[Supplemental Guidance to the 2024 NIH Public Access Policy: Government Use License and Rights](#)

Step 3: Submit manuscript to Journal



The author is the copyright holder until or unless that is transferred in a signed agreement! You can transfer some, while retaining others.

Review your agreement with the publisher. It *should* be negotiable.

Try the [SPARC Author Addendum](#) to modify your agreements.



"As open as possible, as closed as necessary."

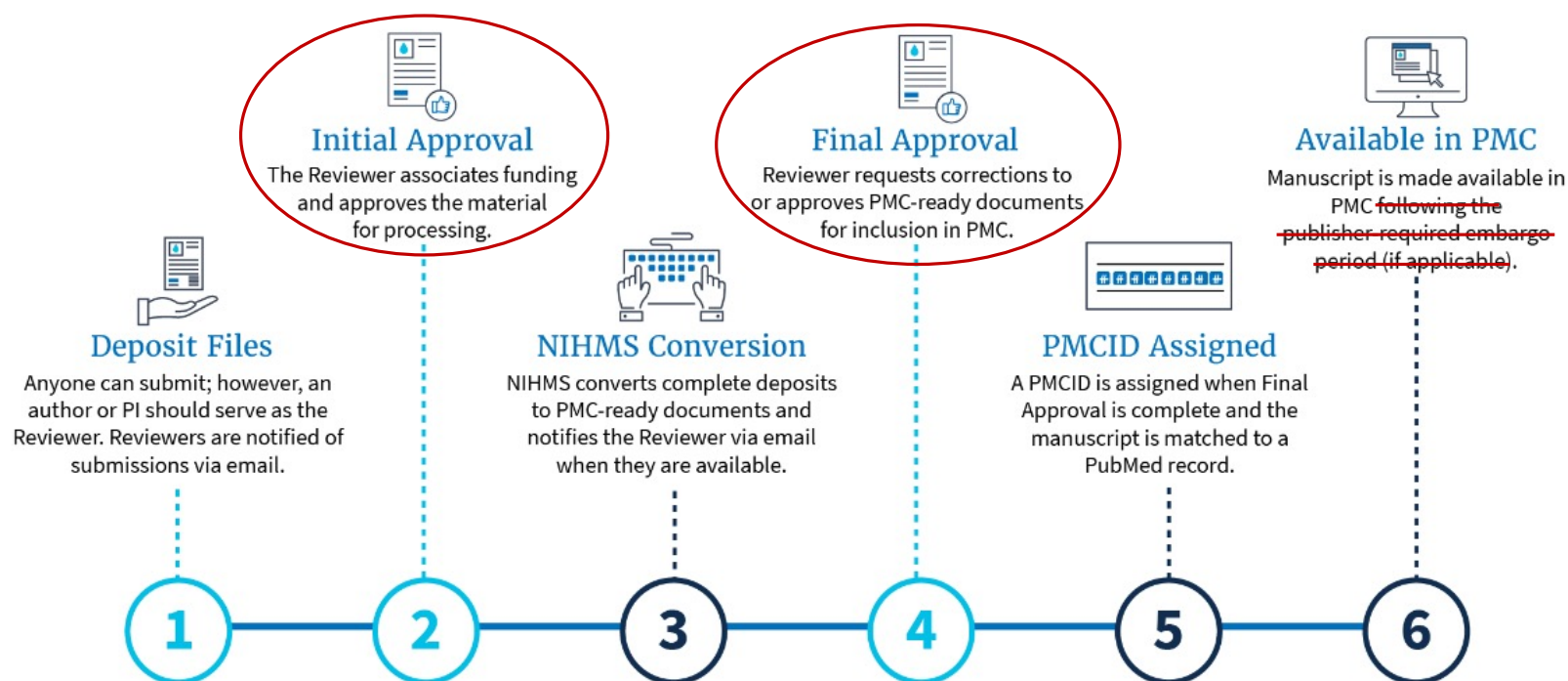
Step 4: Submit to PubMed Central

Once the final Author Accepted Manuscript is accepted for publication, the article must be submitted to PubMed Central to be compliant with the Public Access Policy.

Three ways:

1. Submit an electronic version of the **Author Accepted Manuscript to PubMed Central** for public availability without embargo upon the Official Date of Publication.
 - ❖ NIH allows proxy submissions to PubMed Central
2. Some journals/publishers can automatically submit the Final Published Article to PubMed Central. Make sure your journal does this with no embargo, and upon the Date of Publication.
3. Some journals/publishers can submit articles to PubMed Central on your behalf upon author request (called 'selective deposit').

Step 4: Submit to PMC – the NIH Manuscript Submission System (NIHMS)



Step 4: Submit to PubMed Central

- Preprints are not acceptable; you must use the final Author Accepted Manuscript that includes peer-review revisions.
- You only need one submission per article to PubMed Central, even if there are multiple NIH-funded authors.
- If there are multiple NIH funding sources, you can link multiple NIH award numbers to your article in PubMed Central.
- The approval process can take up to three months!

Stuck in the process? Email: publicaccess@nih.gov

Step 5: Clean up!

1. Submit **allowable publication costs** to your grant (work with OSP and your GCO for this)
 - [Supplemental Guidance to the 2024 NIH Public Access Policy: Publication Costs](#)
 - Submission of AAMs to PMC remains free for authors.
 - Journal or publisher fees that arise during the course of the publication process for the sole purpose of submitting the AAM to PMC are not allowable costs.
 - Compliance with the Policy does not require the payment of an open access fee to a journal.
 - Costs for publishing services that are charged differentially because an AAM is subject to the NIH PAP or the work is the result of NIH funding are unallowable because charges must be levied impartially on all items published by the journal, whether or not under a federal award (GPS 7.9.1).

Step 5: Clean up!

2. Update your ORCID with your new publication, using the journal DOI and/or PMCID.
 - When AAM is deposited into PubMed Central, an NIH Manuscript Submission Identifier (NIHMSID) is automatically assigned.
 - The NIHMSID may be used for three months following the Official Date of Publication until the submission process is complete and a PubMed Central Identifier (PMCID) is assigned.



Other Public Access Policies



National Science Foundation

- [Public Access Plan 2.0](#) was released Feb 2023
- Updated policy is to be included in the next PAPPG.
- Publications must to be submitted to NSF's Public Access Repository (NSF-PAR) without embargo

Department of Energy

- [2023 DOE Public Access Plan](#) went into effect Oct 2024
- Publications must be submitted to Department of Energy Public Access Gateway for Energy and Science (DOE PAGES) without embargo



Browse policies at [SPARC's Public Access Policy tracking resource](#)

Resources

- [NIH Public Access Policy Checklist*](#) - coming soon!
- [Cornell's NIH Public Access Policy Guide*](#) – coming soon!
- [NIH 2024 Public Access Policy](#) and [Revision of Effective Date](#)
- [Online NIH Guidance](#)
- [NIH Supplemental Guidance: Publication Costs](#)
- [NIH Supplemental Guidance: Government Use License and Rights](#)
- [NIH Selective Deposit Collections](#)
- [Cornell University Library Financial Support for Authors](#)
- [Weill Cornell Medicine Financial Support for Authors](#)
- [PMC Journal List](#) and [Help Pages](#)
- [Author's Alliance NIH Q&As*](#)
- [Author's Alliance NIH Guidance*](#)



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NIH Public Access Policy Checklist for PIs

As of July 1, 2025, you must submit to journals that allow NIH-funded articles to be submitted to PubMed Central (PMC) with zero embargo upon the date of publication.

1. SELECT A JOURNAL

- ☐ Have you reached out to your [library liaison](#) or open-scholarship@cornell.edu?
- ☐ Is the journal zero embargo?
 - A. Is it on the open policy/zero embargo list in [DOAJ](#) or [JISC](#) with a **Release Delay of 0 months (Immediate Release)** and **Agreement Status of Active**?
 - B. Is it in the [NIH journal list](#) w/ an agreement to auto-publish articles to PMC?
 - "Agreement to Deposit" is set to "All articles" OR "NIH funded articles."
 - C. Is the journal on NIH's [Selective Deposit list](#)?
- ☐ Does Cornell have an [agreement with the publisher](#) to cover Open Access costs?
- ☐ Are there Article Processing Charges (APCs)? (See: [Authors Alliance NIH FAQs](#).)
- ☐ Are the costs [allowable](#) to NIH?
- ☐ Is the award closed? (If so, pay any APCs using discretionary/other funds.)

2. ADD NIH TERMS TO MANUSCRIPT

- ☐ Add a clear, public-facing acknowledgement of NIH funding in the Author Accepted Manuscript and Final Published Article.
 - "This manuscript is the result of funding in whole or in part by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). It is subject to the NIH Public Access Policy. Through acceptance of this federal funding, NIH has been given a right to make this manuscript publicly available in PubMed Central upon the Official Date of Publication, as defined by NIH."
- ☐ Notify the journal/publisher that your article falls under the NIH policy.

3. SUBMIT TO JOURNAL

- ☐ Has the final Author Accepted Manuscript been accepted for publication?

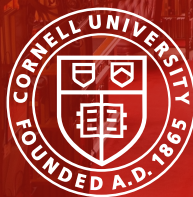
4. SUBMIT TO PUBMED CENTRAL

- ☐ Choose one of three ways to comply with the NIH Public Access Policy:



Questions?

open-scholarship@cornell.edu



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