

Open AI ≠ open writing: How transparent is current use and disclosure of artificial intelligence in publications?

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Scan to vote on what AI uses should be disclosed

Objective

To understand how transparently use of artificial intelligence (AI) is disclosed during development of peer reviewed publications

Methods

- ◆ A **targeted literature search** was conducted in PubMed to identify articles published between 1 March and 31 August 2025 in the *New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM)*, *The Lancet*, *PLOS Medicine* and *Nature Medicine*
- ◆ **Freely available full-text, English-language articles** involving human subjects were included
- ◆ **Disclosure of AI use for publication development** was extracted and results are summarised descriptively

Conclusions

- ◆ Despite increasing discussion about use of AI in publication workflows, and evolving guidance on disclosure and transparency, the **use of AI was rarely disclosed in publications from major journals** over the 6-month assessment period
- ◆ Clear and standardised disclosure policies and guidance on AI disclosure may enhance transparency, reproducibility and trust

Journal policies

265 articles were included in the analysis

All 4 journals specified requirements for AI-use disclosure:

NEJM (n=17; 6.4%)

NEJM's AI policy: "Authors must disclose whether AI-assisted technologies were used to produce the submitted work. If so, both the cover letter and the submitted work should include a description of the technologies used and what was produced"

Lancet (n=36; 13.6%)

The Lancet Group's AI policy: "Authors [must] declare whether they have used AI and AI-assisted technologies upon submission, and if so what technology they have used, and what they have used it for"

PLOS Medicine (n=81; 30.6%)

PLOS' AI policy: "Contributions by AI tools and technologies to a study or to an article's contents must be clearly reported in the Methods or Acknowledgements section. Include the name(s) of any tools used, a description of how the authors used the tool(s) and evaluated the validity of the tool's outputs, and a clear statement of which aspects were affected/generated by AI tool usage"

Nature Medicine (n=131; 49.4%)

Springer Nature's AI policy: "Use of a large language model (LLM) should be properly documented in the Methods section or suitable alternative part of the manuscript. The use of an LLM (or other AI-tool) for 'AI-assisted copy editing' purposes does not need to be declared"

AI disclosure

3 articles (1.1%) disclosed AI use for publication development:

1 article

was industry funded

0 articles

reported support from professional medical writers

AI disclosure statements (n=3)

Nguyen PT et al. *PLOS Med.* 2025;22:e1004664 (Research article)

Acknowledgements: "Declaration of Generative AI Use: The authors independently drafted, revised, and edited the manuscript. ChatGPT was used solely for minor language refinement, with all modifications carefully reviewed and approved by the authors"

Wang T et al. *PLOS Med.* 2025;22:e1004665 (Research article)

Acknowledgements: "We used ChatGPT for language editing in this study"

Sandmann S et al. *Nature Med.* 2025;31:2546–2549 (Brief communication)

Methods: "To generate patient queries, case reports were translated to English using the tool DeepL.com"
Acknowledgements: "The icons of Extended Data Fig. 1 were generated using Figma (<https://www.figma.com>)"

MODEL Chatbot-1

Which articles disclosed AI use for publication development in this analysis and where were they stated? |

AI use and disclosure location

Methods (n=1)

Translation (n=1)
AI tool: DeepLoom

Acknowledgements (n=3)

AI

Figure generation (n=1)
AI tool: Figma

Language editing (n=2)
AI tool: ChatGPT

Abbreviations: AI: artificial intelligence; LLM: large language model; NEJM: New England Journal of Medicine; PLOS: Public Library of Science.

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