

# Action Guide for JOURNAL EDITORS



Peer-reviewed scientific journals are a crucial vehicle for disseminating health technology assessment (HTA) research, methods, and results, as well as the evidence that informs HTA. By exercising editorial oversight and discretion, establishing authorship guidelines, and facilitating the peer review process, journal editors ensure that rigorously conducted HTA and patient-centered or comparative effectiveness research is available for use. They also set expectations for what gets published, what details are included in those publications, and how contributors are recognized. When enacted by editors-in-chief, associate editors, and editorial board members of HTA-focused journals, the actions below can help to incentivize researchers to partner with patients and caregivers throughout HTA conduct, ensure that these partnerships are representative and fairly recognized, and diversify the HTA workforce.

## Journal editor actions to center equity in HTA:

- Require within HTA-related journals a description of whether – and if so, how – authors collaborated with patients and caregivers.
- As part of review processes, ask for details about how well patient and caregiver partners represent the population experiencing the condition of focus and communities experiencing persistent health inequities.
- Require disclosure within HTA-related journal articles whether patient and caregiver partners were compensated and offered opportunities for co-authorship.
- Encourage patient and caregiver partner co-authorship by:
  - Updating guidelines for authors to describe how patient and caregiver partners can meet co-authorship criteria.
  - Giving more weight in peer review to submissions that include authors with lived experience.
- Invite and publish commentary on implications of HTA findings, methods, or frameworks written by patients and caregivers from diverse backgrounds and individuals with expertise in equity for different populations (e.g., by race/ethnicity, culture, disability status). Emphasize implications for marginalized communities.
- Transparently report demographic composition of editors and reviewers.
- Collect self-reported demographic data from authors. Publicly report diversity of contributors.



## Resource Spotlight: Guidance for Journal Editors

- The [British Medical Journal](#) requires that authors document if and how they involved patients and the public in research conduct within a [designated section](#) of all research articles. The journal's policy is based on [Guidance for Reporting Involvement of Patients and the Public](#) (GRIPP2) in study aims, methods, results, discussion, and reflections.
  - ISPOR's 2022 [Consolidated Health Economic Evaluation Reporting Standards](#) (CHEERS) provides guidance on reporting **patient and caregiver engagement** in health economic analyses and research.
- The peer-reviewed journal, [Progress in Community Health Partnerships: Research, Education, and Action](#), provides an additional example of author guidance and editorial review criteria that emphasize academic-community partnerships in both the conduct and publication of research
- *Health Affairs* launched a [strategy for its equity program](#) emphasizing that in scholarly publishing “equity begins with authors, reviewers, and editors.” The journal also created a [Health Equity Advisory Committee](#) and [captures the demographic characteristics](#) of authors and reviewers.
- The Workgroup of European Cancer Patient Advocacy Networks (WECAN) offers an open-access training course, [Patients in Publications](#), for patient advocates who want to learn how to publish their own research or collaborate as a co-author.

