

PEDSnet PUBLICATION POLICY

PEDSnet expects that studies endorsed by the network will result in publishable reports in scientific journals. Each publication increases the dissemination of credible and innovative research generated within the network, and advances the PEDSnet mission to improve the quality of care by applying relevant new knowledge generated through research. This document details the PEDSnet policies related to publications that are based on PEDSnet studies.

§1. Principles

The following principles have guided the development of the PEDSnet publication policy.

- A commitment to equitable opportunities for participation and co-authorship among PEDSnet sites and investigators on approved PEDSnet studies;
- Encouragement of study teams and institutions to include authorship for junior investigators, parents, and health systems leaders;
- Effective management of the logistics of large writing groups;
- Adherence to ICMJE authorship criteria;
- Adherence to the NIH Open Access Policy (for NIH funded studies) and strong encouragement (for non NIH funded studies) to be submitted to journals that allow open access; and,
- Flexibility for study teams to develop publication procedures that accommodate the specific study context.

Investigators for each study will either agree to follow policy, or will develop a mutually acceptable agreement during the planning or early stages for all studies in which PEDSnet is a partner. Sponsor publication policies/requirements take precedence as long as they are not in direct conflict with existing PEDSnet policies.

§2. Publication Committee

Membership

The PEDSnet Publication Committee is responsible for maintaining and upholding the Publications Policy. The Committee will have a minimum of three members. The Executive Committee will appoint the Chair. The total number of participants will be at the discretion of the Chair.

Charge

The charge of the PEDSnet Publication Committee includes:

- Reviewing and maintaining Publication Procedures developed by study teams for authorship and writing;
- Ensuring the appropriate PEDSnet and sponsor acknowledgements are made (refer to Authorship and Acknowledgments section);
- Reviewing PMO generated reports monitoring the timeliness of PEDSnet publications;
- Reporting to the PEDSnet leadership on authorship disputes and facilitating resolutions; and,

- Maintaining a list of PEDSnet published and submitted manuscripts, and reporting publications to PEDSnet leadership at a regular interval.

The Committee will be supported by the Coordinating Center.

The scope of the PEDSnet Publication Committee **does not include** the review of concept proposals for manuscripts. Rather, study teams should develop a review and approval process (refer to Writing Team Roles and Responsibilities section).

§3. Study Publication Procedures

Each Study Team will develop publication procedures which will minimally address the following:

- Development and selection of paper concepts;
- Identification of authors; and
- Approval of final manuscript/s.

Publication procedures will be submitted to the PEDSnet Publication Committee within three months of the study start date.

§4. Authorship and Acknowledgements

Authorship

- Authors must fulfill current [ICMJE criteria](#), being offered the opportunity for authorship early in the planning process when significant contributions are possible;
- For manuscripts using PEDSnet data, authorship should be offered to each institution that contributes data;
- For manuscripts describing or based on the development or infrastructure of the network, authorship should be offered to each institution that contributes data;
- All members of the group who are named as authors should fully meet the criteria for authorship. Group members who do not meet these criteria should be listed, with their permission, elsewhere; and

Writing Team Roles & Responsibilities

- **Study Principal Investigator**: The PI is responsible for ensuring that the primary results of the study are disseminated in the form of a scientific paper. The PI will work with the study investigators to identify a Core Writing Group and a Primary Author for each paper developed. The results of all PEDSnet studies are expected to be submitted for publication within **one year** of the completion of primary data collection or within **6 months** of data extraction (secondary data).
- **Primary Author**: The Primary Author is responsible for the main writing task and is the corresponding author for the paper. The primary author is the final decision maker within the writing team in matters of style, organization and interpretation of findings. For main effects papers, the Primary Author is typically the Study Principal Investigator. Primary

investigators are required to notify the Publication Committee of any manuscripts accepted for publication within 15 days of acceptance. The final citation and the PubMed link to the article should be provided to the Publication Committee within 15 days of publication.

- **Core Writing Group:** This group (typically about 4 persons including the Primary Author) is responsible for the content of the paper, including the main outcomes and results reported. The Core Writing Group determines the target journal and is responsible for responding to peer reviews and revising the manuscript as required in a timely manner. The core writing group will develop publication procedures for identifying manuscript topics and approval processes, and offering authorship to the appropriate data contributors/individuals. The core writing group is responsible for broad dissemination of the study findings, and where applicable, sharing the results with study participants.
- **Group Authors:** Group authors includes other members of the Study Team, i.e., all individuals that contribute to the conduct of the overall research study in a substantive way. Group authors meet ALL of the following ICMJE criteria:
 - Substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work; or the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data for the work;
 - Drafting the work or revising it critically for important intellectual content;
 - Final approval of the version to be published; and
 - Agreement to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

Dispute Resolution

- The Principal Investigator is ultimately responsible for the authorship of all manuscripts according to the guidelines listed within. Any disputes that arise as a result of these guidelines that cannot be adjudicated by the Principal Investigator and Publications Committee should be referred to *PEDSnet leadership, or as needed Institutional leadership of the Core Writing Group and Corporate Authorship Group*, to help resolve disputes. The specific disagreement should be described in detail by the study PI, or if involving the study PI, by another investigator in writing and submitted to the Publications Committee. The Publications Committee may request additional information from the parties involved. The Publications Committee will facilitate a final decision and inform the study PI in writing.

Acknowledgements

- All publications for PEDSnet endorsed studies should include the following statement in the Acknowledgments:

“The research reported in this [work, publication, article, report, presentation, etc.] was conducted using PEDSnet, A Pediatric Learning Health System, and includes data from the following PEDSnet institutions: [List all participating institutions].”

- All publications should acknowledge the sponsor supporting PEDSnet infrastructure
“PEDSnet is a Partner Network Clinical Data Research Network in PCORnet®, the National Patient-Centered Clinical Research Network, an initiative funded by the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI).”

“PEDSnet’s participation in the development of PCORnet® was partially funded through a PCORI Award 1306-01556.”

- A single institution study that leverages data extracted via the PEDSnet data model should make the following reference/acknowledgment:

“The data for this study were derived using the PEDSnet common data model, which is described here: <https://pedsnet.org/data/common-data-model/>”

In addition, all publications should include:

- A statement that acknowledges the study sponsor, and lists the appropriate grant number/s;
 - A statement that the PEDSnet endorsed study was approved/reviewed by institutional review board(s) for protection of human research participants;
 - A statement that acknowledges the contribution of PEDSnet data contributors to the PEDSnet endorsed study. This contribution can be acknowledged by listing the names of PEDSnet institutions in the Acknowledgement section, unless the journal prohibits an acknowledgement of this type. All acknowledgements will follow the *Uniform Requirements for the Acknowledgement section. (ICMJE Acknowledgements)*
 - Key Words - Most journals ask authors to submit keywords that relate to the content of the article. Authors must include keywords that describe the topic of the study. All articles related to PEDSnet studies or data are required to list “PEDSnet” as a keyword.
- PEDSnet data may not be submitted to study sponsors or journals without prospective approval from the network.
 - Final presentation abstracts should include full manuscript acknowledgements, where possible.

§5 PEDSnet Branding and Logo

When Study PIs or other team members present PEDSnet data at scientific or public meetings, all presentations (oral and poster) must use the PEDSnet logo and acknowledge the grant and data contributors using the appropriate acknowledgement statement. The PEDSnet logo and template slides are available upon request at pedsnet@email.chop.edu.