



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF MEDICAL, PHARMACEUTICAL AND BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES (IJMPBS)

APH's Article withdrawal / retraction / removal / replacement policy

APH takes its responsibility to maintain the integrity and completeness of the scholarly record of our content for all end users very seriously. Changes to articles after they have been published online may only be made under the circumstances outlined below. APH places great importance on the authority of articles after they have been published and our policy is based on best practice in the academic publishing community.

Usually, the editor of a journal is the individual responsible for deciding which articles, texts or images will be published and which should be rejected. The decisions will, however, be influenced by the editorial board, the policies of the journal and legal requirements such as copyright infringement or plagiarism.

This policy has been designed to address these concerns and to take into account current best practice in the scholarly and library communities. As standards evolve and change, we will revisit this issue and welcome the input of scholarly and library communities. We believe these issues require international standards and we will be active in lobbying various information bodies to establish international standards and best practices that the publishing and information industries can adopt. See also the [National Library of Medicine's policy](#) on retractions and the recommendations of the [International Committee of Medical Journal Editors \(ICMJE\)](#) concerning corrections and retractions.

There are different circumstances where articles submitted to the editor must be removed or retracted such as:

Article withdrawal:

This is most commonly used in the press when early versions of the written texts and articles are withdrawn due to errors. Sometimes, article withdrawal occurs when articles are submitted twice or to multiple journals, when the texts may represent infringements of the ethical codes, plagiarism and other fraudulent use of data.

Articles in Press (articles that have been accepted for publication but which have not been formally published and will not yet have the complete volume/issue/page information) that include errors, or are discovered to be accidental duplicates of other published article(s), or are determined to violate our journal publishing ethics guidelines in the view of the editors (such as multiple submission, bogus claims of authorship, plagiarism, fraudulent use of data or the like), may be “Withdrawn” from website / database. Withdrawn means that the article content (PDF) is removed and replaced with a PDF simply stating that the article has been withdrawn according to the APH Policy on Article in Press Withdrawal with a link to the current policy document.

Article retractions:

These are used as post-publishing methods of dealing with infringements of editorial ethical codes, plagiarism, fraudulent use of data and other issues related to the publishing sector. In most of the cases, a retraction will be used in order to correct such errors as the ones stated above.

Standards for dealing with retractions have been developed by a number of library and scholarly bodies, and this best practice is adopted for article retraction by APH:

- A retraction note titled “Retraction: [article title]” signed by the authors and/or the editor is published in the paginated part of a subsequent issue of the journal and listed in the contents list.
- In the electronic version, a link is made to the original article.
- The online article is preceded by a screen containing the retraction note. It is to this screen that the link resolves; the reader can then proceed to the article itself.
- The original article is retained unchanged save for a watermark on the .pdf indicating on each page that it is “retracted.”

Article removal:

Sometimes, editors are required to completely remove articles or texts from the online database of the journal. This will occur in exceptional cases when errors cannot be corrected, the article infringes legal rights of other individuals, is defamatory or there is a court order that imposes such a decision. In these circumstances, while the metadata (Title and Authors) will be retained, the text will be replaced with a screen indicating the article has been removed for legal reasons.

Article replacement:

In cases where the article, if acted upon, might pose a serious health risk, the authors of the original article may wish to retract the flawed original and replace it with a corrected version. In these circumstances the procedures for retraction will be followed with the difference that the database retraction notice will publish a link to the corrected re-published article and a history of the document.

Copyright Infringement Claims

Any claims of copyright infringement should be addressed to the Editor at aphejournals@gmail.com bearing the subject line "Copyright Infringement".

The claim must be sufficed by documented evidence supporting the same version as being published or copyrighted or patented by the aggrieved party before the date of publication of the concerned IJMPBS article. On receipt of the claim, the IJMPBS Board, if found deemed, shall inform the author to provide an explanation; the discussion of which shall be transparent to both parties.

The IJMPBS Board reserves the sole rights to decide the validity of any such claims. **After deliberation, if the claim is found justified, the concerned manuscript will be removed from all IJMPBS archives and servers. Any subsequent print copies of the concerned issue will not contain the article.** In case, the changes required are minimal such as inclusion of references, the authors will be intimated to do the required amendments according to the IJMPBS article correction policies. The alternative version shall undergo peer-review as any other general submission and shall be published in the same issue (number) of the concerned volume.

Any claims on copyright will be addressed with the highest priority. A revert mail will be dispatched within 3 working days provided the claim is supported with documented evidence.