

**Plagiarism policy for MTI, KMC / KTH, and**  
**Journal of Medical Sciences (JMS)**



KHYBER MEDICAL COLLEGE PESHAWAR

## Introduction

In today's world of scientific innovation, academic writing has advanced further. Strict laws have been implemented to prevent the theft of scholarly documents and research papers. To avoid academic dishonesty and stealth, various rules have been proposed in research. One of these is plagiarism. When most people think of plagiarism, they usually imagine the intentional copying of someone else's words and claiming them as their own. This is one aspect of the issue, but not the only one; plagiarism can also be unintentional, and it can include the author copying her or his own previously published work—"self-plagiarism," a form of duplicate publication-without citing the original source and presenting it as new. All such violations, whether ethical or legal, are considered forms of "plagiarism" and are explained below.

## Definition

**The intentional or unintentional copying of the words of another.** Whenever an author uses another person's exact words, they must be placed in quotation marks, and a citation must be given. The reader of an article in *JMS* must know which words are the author's and which belong to someone else.

**The author's copying of her or his own previously published material is considered duplicate publication or "self-plagiarism."** If an author has published an article in *Journal A*, she or he may not submit the same article with minor changes to *Journal B*. Nor may she or he use verbatim portions of the first article without quotation marks for a second article. Each publication should contain original writing, even if there is nothing new to report on the topic.

**Inadequate attribution of data or ideas.** Most writers rely on the ideas and data of others, but doing so without naming the source is a form of plagiarism.

**Copyright infringement** occurs when an author copies (with or without attribution) significant portions of a published work, including tables and figures, without having obtained the permission of the person or publisher holding the copyright. When this plagiarized "writing" is published, the new publisher is guilty of violating the original publisher's

copyright. This is a legal matter that can be costly for both the publisher and the author involved.

### **Policy of MTI KMC / KTH and JMS on Plagiarism**

The policy is aimed at informing authors of acceptable writing practices and setting a very high standard for the publication of peer-reviewed articles.

A) When plagiarism is identified in JMS, whether by peer reviewers or staff editors, before or after acceptance, during editing, or at any point prior to publication, *JMS* staff will notify the author, requesting a rewrite, exact quotation, and proper citation of the source. If the plagiarism is extensive—defined as at least 25% of the original submission, as determined by the institute's Plagiarism Standing Committee—the article may be rejected. The author's employer will be informed of the violation. If plagiarism is found after publication, the editors will notify readers of the infraction through an editor's note in the next issue of the journal as a corrigendum, and the author's employer may also be notified. Similarly, the article will be retracted if significant plagiarism—25% or more—is discovered. This policy applies to all authors involved in the plagiarized work.

B)

a. When plagiarism is detected in JMS or other journals after publication by:

- (1) an internal source (within the college),
- (2) a complaint from an external source, or
- (3) found during scrutiny of documents for promotion or initial recruitment

The case will be sent to the institute's plagiarism standing committee.

b. The committee will investigate the matter confidentially within 4 weeks and will answer three questions;

- (1) Whether plagiarism has occurred or not?
- (2) How much plagiarism has occurred? And,
- (3) to classify the magnitude of plagiarism and identify the penalty according to the HEC plagiarism policy (i.e., major, moderate, and minor penalty) <sup>2</sup>.

C) The committee will then ask the authors in writing to explain or defend, if they can, within a week.

Afterwards, the committee's suggestions will be forwarded to the Dean of the KMC/KTH, who will implement the decision accordingly.

Meanwhile, the plagiarism standing committee will contact the editor-in-chief, executive editor / managing editor of the journal responsible for retracting the article if significant plagiarism (more than 25%) has occurred.

Similarly, the plagiarism standing committee will also recommend to the promotion/selection committees that the promotion/selection process be postponed until the committee's decision (in cases where plagiarized articles are submitted for promotion/initial recruitment).

- C) The process of plagiarism detection will be done with the help of Plagiarism software (Turnitin) and Manual check by the plagiarism standing committee as follows:
- a. A similarity of more than 25% on Turnitin will be considered major plagiarism.
  - b. For manual check, the table shown below will be used, with plagiarism content determined by the cumulative score.

<b>Title</b>	<b>Minor similarity</b>	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>Major similarity</b>
<b>Title of article</b>	5% or less	6-24%	25% or more
<b>Abstract</b>	5% or less	6-24%	25% or more
<b>Introduction</b>	5% or less	6-24%	25% or more
<b>Methods</b>	5% or less	6-24%	25% or more
<b>Tables</b>	5% or less	6-24%	25% or more
<b>Graphs / figures</b>	5% or less	6-24%	25% or more
<b>Results*</b>	5% or less	6-24%	25% or more
<b>Discussion</b>	5% or less	6-24%	25% or more

<b>Conclusion</b>	5% or less	6-24%	25% or more
<b>References</b>	5% or less	6-24%	25% or more

*Example: An article having 5% similarity in the abstract, 5% in the introduction, 10% in the results, 5% in the discussion, and 5% in the references will mean a total cumulative plagiarism of 30%, and will be liable for a major penalty.*

*\*in the results section, even minor duplication and copying of other work may be considered significant plagiarism*

- D) The plagiarism standing committee will also be responsible for verifying research papers to ensure these articles are relevant to the authors' specialties, for promotion or selection.
- E) This policy will be revised every two years or whenever needed.

## **Resources: Understanding Plagiarism and Citation**

There are several standard guidelines available for writing and submitting articles for publication in biomedical journals. The *Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals: Writing and Editing for Biomedical Publication*, by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors, presents clear guidelines on when a citation is necessary. It is available online at <http://www.icmje.org>.

### **Other resources**

- 1) The plagiarism policy of the *American Journal of Nursing*. AJN, American Journal of Nursing: July 2007-Vol. 107(7): p:78-79  
Doi: 10.1097/01.naj.0000279284.25217.cd
- 2) HEC Plagiarism policy:  
(<https://hec.gov.pk/english/services/faculty/Documents/Plagiarism/Plagiarism%20Policy.pdf>)

- 3) Georgetown University Honor Council. *What Is Plagiarism?*  
(<http://gervaseprograms.georgetown.edu/hc/plagiarism.html>)
- 4) COPE guidelines:  
(<https://publicationethics.org/files/plagiarism%20B.pdf>)