

European Psychiatry

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In concordance with the ICMJE, European Psychiatry only considers clinical trials registered in a public trials registry. For this purpose, the ICMJE defines a clinical trial as any research study that prospectively assigns human participants or groups of humans to one or more health-related interventions to evaluate the effects on health outcomes. Health-related interventions include any intervention used to modify a biomedical or health-related outcome (for example, drugs, surgical procedures, devices, behavioral treatments, dietary interventions, and process-of-care changes). Health outcomes include any biomedical or health-related measures obtained in patients or participants, including pharmacokinetic measures and adverse events. Purely observational studies (those in which the assignment of the medical intervention is not at the discretion of the investigator) do not require registration. Studies designed for other purposes, such as to study pharmacokinetics or major toxicity (for example, phase I trials), are exempt. All clinical trials, regardless of when they were completed, must be registered before submission of a manuscript based on the trial. The trial name, URL, and registration number should be included at the end of the abstract. Acceptable registries are ClinicalTrials.gov (<http://www.clinicaltrials.gov>) or any primary registries in the World Health Organization International Clinical Trials Registry Platform (<http://www.who.int/ictrp/network/primary/en/index.html>) (e.g. Australian New Zealand Clinical Trials Registry; ISRCTN Register; Netherlands Trial Register; UMIN Clinical Trials Registry).

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Ethical and Legal Considerations

Patient Anonymity

Patient anonymity must be protected in all cases. Identifying information such as names, initials, hospital numbers, dates, and any information about the patient’s characteristics or personal history that may result in personal identification should be removed.

Ethical Approval and Informed Consent

Any study that reports results based on direct contact with human subjects (regardless of the procedures used) must include a statement that ethical approval was obtained for the study and that written informed consent was obtained from participants after the procedure(s) had been fully explained. Studies on vulnerable adult populations (e.g., prisoners, cognitively impaired individuals) should also describe the process of assessing capacity and safeguards that were in place to protect study participants. Studies that use archival information on human subjects (e.g., electronic medical records, research databases, national registries) should include information about the ethical framework of the study and specify whether anonymized or de-identified data were used. In the case of children, the authors should include information about whether the child’s assent was obtained. Submissions that do not contain the relevant information on ethical approval and consent will not be reviewed.

Care of Animals

Studies reporting experiments on animals should include a statement that institutional and national guidelines for the care and use of laboratory animals were followed.

Scientific Integrity and Misconduct

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RESEARCH AND DATA REPORTING

European Psychiatry expects that submitted papers will meet high standards of data reporting. Authors should submit internationally adopted checklists for study designs, including randomized controlled trials (CONSORT), systematic reviews (PRISMA), meta-analyses of observational studies (MOOSE), and diagnostic accuracy studies (STARD). Particularly, authors are required to submit CONSORT materials (flow diagram and checklist) for all randomized controlled trials. In addition, the Minimum Information for Biological and Biomedical Investigations (MIBBI) portal also provides data-reporting standards, such as MIAME for microarray experiments. A comprehensive list of reporting guidelines is available from the EQUATOR Network Library (<http://www.equator-network.org>). Authors should make use of the appropriate guidelines when drafting their papers. Peer reviewers are asked to refer to these checklists when evaluating these studies.

For genetic studies, authors should use approved nomenclature for gene symbols by consulting the appropriate public databases for correct gene names and symbols. GenBank/EMBL accession numbers for primary nucleotide and amino acid sequence data should be included in the manuscript at the end of the Methods and Materials section.

REPOSITORY DATA

A growing number of private and public repositories are accumulating demographic and clinical data, genetic and genetic analysis data, DNA, and other biomaterials for use in medical research. Manuscripts submitted for publication in European Psychiatry that employ repository data and/or biomaterials must be in full compliance with the rules developed by the respective repository governing the correct citation of the repository, funding agencies, and investigators who contributed to the repository. Any other stipulation by the repository governing publications using repository data and/or biomaterials must also be followed. Authors must provide sufficient information in the manuscript for the Editor and reviewers to determine that these conditions have been met and that the repository has been established and maintained according to current ethical standards. The Editors may require authors to provide additional documentation regarding the repository during the review process.

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