

## Guidelines for Authors

Thank you for informing authors that *Respiratory Care* will not consider submissions of ghost-written manuscripts ([http://rc.rcjournal.com/site/includefiles/author\\_information.xhtml](http://rc.rcjournal.com/site/includefiles/author_information.xhtml)). As members of the Global Alliance of Publication Professionals ([www.gappteam.org](http://www.gappteam.org)), we monitor publications and guidelines for content that have implications for publication professionals. We agree that ghost writing is unethical and undermines the integrity of authorship. Unfortunately, the terminology is often misunderstood and ghost writing is sometimes conflated with fully disclosed contributions made by professional medical writers and other non-author contributors. To further clarify the guidelines for authors, please consider the following changes.

### **Industry Relationships** (with proposed changes shown as tracked additions and deletions)

Respiratory Care requires authors to indicate the role of funding organizations or sponsors in the design of the study, data collection, data analysis, and interpretation of the data. Authors must also disclose the role of funding organizations in the preparation, review, and approval of the manuscript. The setting where the study was conducted must be indicated. Full disclosure of the role of funding sources must be included at the beginning of the Methods section.

Individuals who provided paid contributions to the paper (including writers, statisticians, epidemiologists, and any others involved with data management and analyses) may meet the criteria for authorship. Contributors who make substantial contributions but if they do not fulfill all four of the ICMJE authorship criteria, they should be listed in the Acknowledgment section.

Respiratory Care will not consider submissions that are ghost written (ie, undisclosed or unacknowledged substantial written contributions by industry employees or hired writers). Nor will the Journal consider submissions of industry-sponsored studies in which the data were collected and analyzed solely by employees of the company. Such studies are considered only if there is independent analysis of the methods and data by someone at an academic institution, who has research and publishing experience (eg, medical school, academic medical center, or government research institute).

For additional information related to relationships between authors and industry, refer to: Fontanarosa PB, Flanagin A, DeAngelis CD. Reporting conflicts of interest, financial aspects of research, and role of sponsors in funded studies. *JAMA* 2005;294(1):110–111  
doi:[10.1001/jama.294.1.110](https://doi.org/10.1001/jama.294.1.110).

Note that we recommend deleting “by industry employees or hired writers” because we suspect that the intent is to ban all ghost writing, regardless of the source of funding. For example, this change would also clarify the ban on manuscripts written by graduate students and other post-doctoral researchers who are not properly acknowledged either as authors or as acknowledged contributors.

Thank you in advance for considering our request.

The Global Alliance of Publication Professionals ([www.gappteam.org](http://www.gappteam.org))

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