



Office of Associate Dean Research KHYBER MEDICAL COLLEGE PESHAWAR

Plagiarism policy for MTI, KMC / KTH and JMS

Introduction

In today`s world of scientific innovations, the academic writing has gone a step ahead. Strict laws have been reinforced to avoid the stealing of one`s scholarly documents and research writings. To avoid academic stealth and dishonesty, different rules have been put forward in the field of research. One of that is plagiarism. When most people think of plagiarism, they usually think of the intentional copying of the words of another and claiming them as one's own. This is one aspect of the problem, but not the only one; plagiarism may be unintentional, and it can also include the author's copying of her or his own previously published material-"self-plagiarism," a form of duplicate publication-without acknowledging the original source and presenting it as such. All such infractions, whether ethical or legal in nature, are 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: duplicate publication or "self-plagiarism." If an author has published an article in *Journal A*, she or he may not send the same article with a few minor adjustments to *Journal B*. Nor may she or he take verbatim portions of the first article without quotation marks for use in a second article. Each publication should contain fresh 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 copyright held by the original publisher. This is a legal matter that can be costly to both the publisher and the author involved ¹.

Policy of MTI KMC / KTH and JMS on Plagiarism

The policy is aimed at; to inform authors of acceptable writing practices, and to set a very high standard for the publication of peer-reviewed articles.

A) When plagiarism is detected in JMS, by either peer reviewers or staff editors, before or after acceptance, during editing, or at any time before publication, *JMS* staff will alert the author, asking her or him to rewrite or quote exactly and to cite the original source. If the plagiarism is extensive-that is, if at least 25% (as decided by the Plagiarism standing committee of the institute) of the original submission is plagiarized- the article may be rejected and the author's employer notified of the infraction. If plagiarism is detected after publication, the editors will notify readers of the infraction through an editor's note in the next issue of the journal as corrigendum, and the author's employer may be notified of the breach. Similarly, the article will be retracted if major plagiarism is detected (25% or more). This will apply to all the authors of the plagiarized research work.

B)

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

(1) an internal source (within the college),

(2) complaint from external source, or

(3) found during scrutiny of documents for promotion or initial recruitment

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

b. The committee will investigate the matter confidentially within 4 weeks and will answer 3 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) ².

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

Afterwards, the suggestions of the committee will be put forward to the Dean of the KMC / KTH, and the Dean will implement the decision accordingly.

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

Similarly, the plagiarism standing committee will also suggest to the promotion / selection committees to withhold the process of promotion / selection till the decision of the committee (in case the plagiarised articles are presented 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 decided upon cumulative score.

Title	Minor similarity	Moderate	Major similarity
Title of article	5% or less	6-24%	25% or more
Abstract	5% or less	6-24%	25% or more
Introduction	5% or less	6-24%	25% or more
Methods	5% or less	6-24%	25% or more

Tables	5% or less	6-24%	25% or more
Graphs / figures	5% or less	6-24%	25% or more
Results	5% or less	6-24%	25% or more
Discussion	5% or less	6-24%	25% or more
Conclusion	5% or less	6-24%	25% or more
References	5% or less	6-24%	25% or more

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

- D) The plagiarism standing committee will also be responsible for verification of research papers to check for the relevance of these articles to the specialty of the authors for the purpose of promotion or selection
- E) This policy will be revised after 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>)