





How Portuguese Kidney Journal (PKJ) Aims to Tackle Today's Publishing Challenges

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The Portuguese Society of Nephrology has introduced the Portuguese Kidney Journal (PKJ), a modern scientific journal with an international outlook, dedicated to amplifying the visibility and impact of Portugal's contributions to nephrology. PKJ aspires to become a key platform for sharing high-quality research, pioneering innovations, and best practices within the nephrology community worldwide. To meet these goals, we have included a variety of manuscript categories. Beyond Research Articles, Reviews, Systematic Reviews, and Case Reports, we also invite submissions of other types of work such as Study Protocols, Nephrology Images, Letters to the Editor, the Nephropathology Quiz, and Current Perspectives. This range expands the journal's reach, allowing authors to share perspectives, offer insights, and engage in constructive dialogue. We are confident that this diverse content will enrich the journal and enhance its role as an essential platform for academic exchange.

PKJ is already indexed in OpenAIRE and RCAAP, offering a range of benefits, including increased visibility, wider accessibility, enhanced credibility, and alignment with open-access initiatives. These contribute to the journal's overall success and impact in the academic and scientific community.

We aim to have the journal indexed in more major international databases and are prepared to take the necessary steps. We seek approval for peer approval and international recognition, and we know that a renowned medical journal must maintain high standards of rigor, transparency, ethics, diversity and impact. With this in mind, we have prepared guidelines for authors following the best and most up-to-date publishing rules. Thus, PKJ adheres to best practices and is aligned with the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) recommendations for the conduct, communication, editing and publication of

academic work in biomedical journals. In addition, follow the guidelines of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE), guaranteeing the integrity and ethical soundness of our editorial processes. For our journal, adherence to the EQUATOR Network checklists is also imperative. These comprehensive checklists serve as essential guidelines to ensure the robustness and transparency of our publications. Embracing the principles advocated by the EQUATOR Network, we strive to enhance the quality and reliability of the scientific content we publish, promoting precise methods and clear reporting practices.

Other steps have been taken such as:

- Definition of the responsibilities and competencies of the editor-in-chief: The editor-in-chief is responsible for implementing editorial policies, ensuring publication ethics, maintaining research integrity, overseeing the editorial process, and managing the journal's relationships with authors, readers, indexers, research agencies, the scientific community, and the public. Transparency and quality control are key priorities in this role
- In the submission and peer review process, the editor-in-chief and deputy editors are concerned with and obliged to: ensure confidentiality; select articles for peer review; select reviewers; speed up the editorial process; and make final editorial decisions based on relevance, originality and quality.
- Editorial freedom policy has been defined, as the quality of the editorial policy and the indication of the editorial freedom statement are criteria that are also used to assess the quality of the journal.
- Policies for errata and retraction are included in the author guidelines.
- We promote responsible authorship by following ICMJE criteria and ensuring ethical practices in scientific

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publishing. The editorial process confirms that all authors have reviewed and accepted responsibility for the content, with each author's contribution clearly stated in every article. We also ensure adherence to ethical guidelines and conflict of interest declarations. Authors are required to submit the following forms: Conflict of Interest (COI) Disclosure, Author Contribution, and Consent to Publication (when needed).

- We check for unethical practices such as double submission; redundant publication; inadequate authorship; failure to disclose conflicts of interest and the development of guidelines involving informed consent or patient privacy.
- We aim to maintain and enhance editorial quality by ensuring clear titles and abstracts, accurate MeSH keywords, precise figures and tables, and the most relevant, up-to-date references.
- To prove the existence of an external peer review, this information is explicitly indicated in the articles that are subject to this external evaluation, as well as the article's processing dates (submission, acceptance, availability ahead of print and publication).
- We aim to speed up publication by improving editorial timelines and offering ahead-of-print access to articles
- A copyright policy has been established and is available on the journal's website and on all articles. This policy will be registered with Sherpa/Romeo
- As soon as possible we will start an "outreach" process, promoting the visibility of the journal.

We know that there are several important databases where the PKJ, should be indexed. Regardless of the database, the journal always has to submit a formal application for inclusion, and for this, it is necessary to understand the database's selection process and requirements. Each database has its objectives, target audience, geographical preference in the journal's origin and thematic areas of greatest interest. Nevertheless, the selection criteria for all of them are practically identical, with only the level of demand varying for each criterion: compliance with reporting standards, scientific and editorial quality (including the peer review process), editorial board, purpose and coverage, type of content, current and relevant references, credibility and

quality of content, production quality, regularity of publication, diversity in the origin of authors and standardization.

It is important to remember that getting indexed in international bibliographic databases takes time and requires significant efforts on the part of the journal, such as attracting more research articles and more authors of national and international renown, and thus significantly increasing the visibility and impact of the publication.

Diversity: PKJ needs to invest more in the pursuit of diversity in terms of topics, authors and reviewers to ensure a broader view of science.

Impact: PKJ must have a significant impact on the scientific community, and be cited and recognized as a reliable source of scientific information.

In addition to these criteria, other factors such as the frequency of publication, open access to articles and the presence of content on social media are also considered when assessing the quality of a scientific medical journal.

It is crucial to highlight that getting indexed in prestigious international bibliographic databases is a shared mission that requires effort, perseverance, and critical thinking. We believe we are on the right path, but for PKJ to have a successful future, we need the commitment of all national nephrologists in this effort.

Another major challenge we face, and are prepared for, is artificial intelligence (AI). AI is transforming scientific writing and publishing, providing innovative solutions to streamline processes, increase efficiency and improve the quality of scientific publications. However, we must ensure its responsible and safe use, considering its impact on research integrity and developing strategies to detect and prevent AI-generated misinformation. We must also ensure that we follow the policies created by the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) on the use of GenAI, and the International Committee of Medical Journals Editors (ICMJE) recommendations which require authors to disclose any use of artificial intelligence-assisted technologies, such as large language models (LLMs), chatbots or image creators, in the production of the submitted work.

Indexing? It is within reach! Achieving this goal requires the full involvement of all Portuguese nephrologists. It is up to everyone- editors, reviewers and authors- to achieve the long-awaited excellence in indexing.

Contributorship Statement

HD: Drafted the manuscript

JG, MN and JAL: Provided a critical review of the manuscript.

All authors approved the final version to be published.

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