

## **ILM Editorial Policy: Peer Review Process**

Ethical, timely, effective peer review is fundamental to a journal. The editorial board of Issues in Law and Medicine is responsible for managing and assuring the integrity of the peer review process.

An Editor or Associate Editor will:

- Ensure that a journal's aims and scope are kept up-to-date.
- Give unbiased consideration to each manuscript submitted and judge each on its merits, without regard to race, religion, nationality, sex, gender, seniority, or institutional affiliation of the author(s).
- Comply with and uphold the journal's peer review policy of double-anonymous/double-blinded peer review process and ensure that both authors and reviewers' identities are protected.
- Ensure that rigorous peer review is conducted on each article, where detailed & constructive peer review reports have been obtained from at least two independent peer reviewers, as managed by the Scholar One manuscript review process.
- Respect and maintain confidentiality throughout the peer review process.
- Not set barriers to submission or publication other than the quality of the work.
- Ensure that any editorial board members, or other members of the editorial team (including any guest editors) involved in the peer review process, are working in an ethical, timely and effective manner.
- Provide guidance for peer reviewers which is in line with Issues in Law and Medicine [Peer Review Policy](#) and [COPE guidelines](#).
- All data and information about reviewers is managed through the Scholar One system.
- Verify the contact details of reviewers suggested by authors or other third parties.
- Develop and maintain a consistent and fair policy around returning, rejecting and withdrawing papers.
- Work closely with the production editor and other editorial office staff to keep the journal production to timetable and page budget (where applicable).
- Work with the Editorial Board to resolve any issues or queries regarding submissions or published articles, using [COPE guidance](#) where appropriate.
- Aim to provide a positive experience for all prospective authors regardless of peer review decisions.