

Peer-review system

Mental Health and Substance Use: dual diagnosis is a peer-review publication. The journal is international and interdisciplinary and adheres to the International Society of Addiction Journal Editors (ISAJE) 'Farmington Consensus,' and 'Ethical Guidelines in Addiction Publishing.' The journal editor, and editorial team, observe this relationship as an essential, integral, component of the journals publishing ethics and development, where the editor and editorial team aim to provide a clear and transparent publishing arrangement with authors.

New writers are actively encouraged to submit manuscripts. Therefore, to facilitate publication practice, education, training, and management enhancing manuscripts, integral to the role and function of associate editors and the editorial advisory board member, is the requirement to assist new writers of quality informative articles, to the point of publication, whenever possible.

The editor deems it imperative that articles published within the journal are fresh, informative, research and evidence based, factual, and up-to-date. To ensure that this is effective, the process from receipt to the point of publication has to be quick and efficient. To this end, manuscript submission and review makes full use of electronic media. Manuscripts submissions should be through electronic media. Prospective writers should submit manuscripts to the central office in Ipswich.

Receipt of the manuscript is acknowledged within 48 hours, and reviewers selected. Distribution of the 'match manuscript' to 'identified expertise' is critical. There are two reviewers per manuscript. The anticipated turnaround from review to notification of review outcome is 8 weeks. However, should the manuscript require a third review - in the case of divided opinion on reviews - the process could take an additional 4 weeks (12 weeks in total). However, the editor will endeavour to keep this to a minimum and authors will be informed of any delay beyond 8 weeks. The editor makes the final decision to publish based on the best quality advice of the reviewers, and consultations with the associate editors when appropriate.

On manuscript return and evaluation, the outcome is emailed within 64 hours to the writer with advice of:

- Accept no changes:
- Accept minor changes:
- Accept major changes – recommendation for further review option is given:
- Rejection – where at all possible the writer is supported to the point of publication. However, it is acknowledged that some papers will fall below the quality standard for publication, and or will be deemed inappropriate for this publication; therefore, there will be some rejections.

A record of the above is collected and collated by the administrator for analysis and future development of the journal and its direction.

All accepted manuscripts are subject to editing by the journal editor. The author can reduce the extent of this intervention by carefully adhering to the 'Instructions to Authors.'

The editor anticipates that by using electronic media, process of review to acceptance will fall between 8-12 weeks: keeping publication topical, keeping information fresh, and enabling the journal to be, and to maintain, a position at the front edge of the concerns relative to *Mental Health and Substance Use: dual diagnosis*.

About the International Society of Addiction Journal Editors (ISAJE)

ISAJE Mission Statement

‘The Society is established to promote excellence in the communication and dissemination of information on addiction and related sciences within the scientific community and to those who have responsibility for the prevention, treatment, cure, professional training and policy formation in this field.’

The Farmington Consensus

‘This historic document has been widely adopted and reproduced in many journals in the field. It aimed to make a statement of a strongly shared position, to enhance the quality of publications in the field, to emphasise commitment to the peer review process and to "take strong positions on issues relating to the efficiency and integrity of that process".

The intention was also to set standards for ethical expectations from authors, referees, editors alike and thus to bring out the importance of avoiding duplicate publications and undeclared conflicts of interest. Farmington also requires journals to define policies for dealing with examples of scientific misconduct that they may encounter and to be alert to issues relating to editorial independence and the impact of the financial and other interests of journal owners.’