

From: Office of the Provost and Dean of the Medical School

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Sent: Tuesday, July 1, 2025 8:00 AM

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Subject: Please Read: Major changes in NIH open access requirements for papers accepted on or after July 1, 2025

We are writing to ensure you are aware of new open access requirements for papers that report work supported in whole or in part by NIH.

The Author Accepted Manuscript or Final Published Article version of any paper that reports work supported in whole or in part by NIH funds and that is accepted on or after July 1, 2025, must be immediately available on PubMed Central (publicly available/free) upon the Official Date of Publication in the journal. This will require you to be proactive and ensure your paper is posted to PubMed Central, even if you are publishing in an open access journal.

The Author Accepted Manuscript is the author's final version that has been accepted for journal publication and includes all revisions resulting from the peer review process, including all figures, tables, and supplemental materials. The Final Published Article is the journal's authoritative copy, including journal or publisher copy editing, stylistic edits, and formatting changes.

The following are NOT sufficient to satisfy the new open access requirements:

- Publishing in an open access journal (the paper must also be posted to PubMed Central no later than the day it appears in the journal)
- Relying on an open access journal to post it on PubMed Central for you (not all do)
- Publishing on BioRxiv (the Author Accepted Manuscript or Final Published Article must be posted on PubMed Central on the day the paper appears in the journal)
- Publishing the non-peer reviewed version on BioRxiv or PubMed Central.

If you are not publishing in an open access journal (for example, you are publishing in Cell, Nature, Science, etc.), you may now be required to pay for the open access option so that you can submit to PubMed Central to meet this requirement. (See Nature news story here: <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-025-01938-8>). UTSW has discounted APCs for some journals, but author page charges (APCs) can be expensive (see here: <https://utsouthwestern.libguides.com/apc-support>).

Note: Some scientific and medical societies publish non-profit, open access journal with more reasonable APCs - but you will still need to ensure they post to PubMed Central on or before the date your paper is published. You can find information about journals that post to PubMed Central on your behalf here: <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/journals/>.

More information and FAQs:

<https://grants.nih.gov/policy-and-compliance/policy-topics/public-access>

<https://grants.nih.gov/faqs#/public-access-policy?anchor=11972>

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