

Competing interests

A competing interest exists when professional judgment concerning a primary interest (such as patients' welfare or the validity of research) may be influenced by a secondary interest (such as financial gain or personal rivalry). It may arise for the authors of a JRTPH article when they have a financial interest that may influence - probably without their knowing - their interpretation of their results or those of others.

We believe that to make the best decision on how to deal with a paper we should know about any such competing interest that authors may have. We are not aiming at eradicating competing interests - they are almost inevitable. We will not reject papers simply because you have a competing interest, but we will make a declaration on whether or not you have competing interests.

Please ensure that all authors use the following questions to decide whether they have any competing interests:

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2. Have you in the past five years been employed by an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the results of your study or the conclusions of your review, editorial, or letter?

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If any author has answered "yes" to any of the above five questions we consider that to be a possible competing interest, which, in the spirit of openness, should be declared. Please draft a statement to publish with the article. It might, for example, read:

- Competing interests: RS has been reimbursed by Shangri La Products, the manufacturer of elysium, for attending several conferences; TD has been paid by Shangri La Products for running educational programmes and has her research registrar paid for by the company; JS has shares in the company.

If none of the authors answered "yes" to any of the five questions above please then provide in the manuscript a declaration "Authors have no competing interests to declare".

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