

AAP Journals & Periodicals

Publishing Ethics in Pediatrics

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It has been an honor succeeding John Lantos, MD, FAAP, the originator and first editor of "Ethics Rounds" in *Pediatrics*. As the current editor of this section of our journal, I regularly get inquiries about potential cases or manuscripts. Thus I thought that it might be helpful to prospective authors to describe the section's format and submission process as well as other **article types** amenable to publishing ethics in *Pediatrics* with the hope you will consider submitting a manuscript.

Ethics Rounds usually consist of an abstract, brief introduction, a case followed by several commentaries, the outcome of the case, and a conclusion. The abstract should summarize the commentators' substantive conclusions in addition to briefly describing the case. The case can involve clinical, research, or organizational ethics. It should conclude with an ethical dilemma or conflict, and the need for an individual or group to act. Cases are typically 250 to 300 words in length. If the case is based on the care of an actual patient, informed consent should be obtained from the adult patient or the parents or guardian of a minor patient, or the case should be sufficiently anonymized that the participants cannot recognize it. Cases can also be a composite of the care of several actual patients.

The case is usually followed by 2-3 commentaries that are all included in the article. Each commentary usually has 1-2 authors. The author(s) of the case are typically among the commentators. If there are 2 commentaries, they should each be 1,200 or fewer words and, if there are 3, each should be 800 or fewer words. It is preferable that the commentaries' authors represent different institutions, disciplines, and/or perspectives. Commentaries should not introduce new information about the case and should not be repetitive. Ethics Rounds generally conclude with a description of the outcome of the case and a brief comment by the Section Editor. Potential authors are strongly encouraged to review recently published Ethics Rounds to familiarize themselves with the format and topics that have already been covered.

Editorial support is available to help less experienced authors evaluate the suitability of a case, refine the case, and/or identify potential commentators. Submissions to Ethics Rounds by residents, fellows, and junior faculty are welcomed.

Ethics Rounds is not the only article type in which to address ethical issues. Other relevant types are **Regular Articles**, **Research Briefs**, **Pediatric Perspectives**, and **Special Articles**. **Regular Articles** are original research that aims to inform clinical practice and includes interventional studies and surveys. These articles follow the typical introduction, methods, results, discussion, and conclusion format. **Research Briefs** are also original research but, as the title suggests, shorter in length; 700 words or fewer compared to 3000 words or fewer. **Pediatric Perspectives** are opinion pieces addressing current topics in pediatrics including ethical

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issues. They should include a clear explanation of the issue and potential responses. They are limited to 1,200 words, 3 authors, and 7 references. **Special Articles** discuss pediatric health care topics or issues, including ethical issues, but do not utilize traditional study methodologies. They are limited to 4,000 or fewer words. Ethical issues may also be addressed in these other article types albeit less frequently.

I am happy to discuss potential submissions to Ethics Rounds or help you determine which article type would be the best fit for your topic. I may be reached at pediatricseitorial@aap.org.

- [Opioid Management in the Dying Child With Addiction](#)
- [The Ethics of Creating a Resource Allocation Strategy During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- [Institutional Ethics Committees](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- [Instagram](#)