Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy for Authors

As per the terms of your publishing agreement, we ask that content is not directly generated or created with AI tools. That said, we also recognise that AI assistive technology is evolving rapidly and can offer useful tools within educational and professional settings. This guidance explains how to use AI assistive tools responsibly and appropriately, within the terms of your publishing agreement with Class Professional.

Our aim is to ensure that every resource we publish meets the highest standards of integrity, transparency and clinical accuracy. We welcome new technologies that can help support these standards and encourage authors to be open about how they use them, while working with us as these technologies continue to evolve.

Author Responsibilities and AI Use

Our publishing agreement is with you, the author. We have contracted with you because you are a specialist in your subject area. Humans bring unique insight and originality that a machine cannot replace, and AI models are not always accurate or up to date with the full and latest evidence base. Be aware also that content input into AI platforms is sometimes used for machine training and may have copyright implications as outlined below.

Your responsibilities as author

- **You remain fully accountable.** If you choose to use AI tools, you are responsible for the integrity and accuracy of your work, including evaluating, verifying and correcting all content. All AI use must be under direct human supervision and you should review any potential bias, errors or limitations introduced by AI.
- **AI tools cannot be listed as authors or co-authors.** Authorship entails responsibilities such as original thinking and analysis, specialist understanding of clinical practice and awareness of the most up-to-date guidance. These cannot be replicated by AI technologies.
- **Your text must be in your own voice.** Your final written text should reflect your own ideas and conclusions.
- **Ownership.** Using AI must not invalidate the assurances you give us, as author, in your publishing contract or contributor agreement, including ownership of copyright, originality and factual accuracy.

Copyright

- Text and content (including images) directly generated by AI are not protected by copyright. To assert copyright, you must be the creator of the original text, not just the ideas it describes.
- AI tools may draw on other works that are protected by copyright. You should be aware of this when reviewing any AI content and rewrite in your own voice where necessary.
- You should obtain permission from the appropriate copyright holders before putting material into an AI tool. This may also include work you have published yourself or for which you are contracted to publish.

When can I use AI?

Whilst we would not accept content for publication that has been directly created by AI, we appreciate that assistive AI can offer useful tools to authors and can be used in limited ways to support your writing. Please see examples of these below:

- **Proof checking and reference tools:** Checking grammar, spelling and references using dedicated spelling and grammar tools, such as Grammarly or the features within Microsoft Word. There are also several referencing tools which draw on AI technologies which may be helpful in your writing.
- **Ideation:** Generating ideas to support your work which will later be written in your own voice.
- **Image briefs:** Creating examples of the kind of images you would like to include in the text. We would not publish an AI-created image, for the reasons outlined in this policy, but it could be used as inspiration to help brief our illustrators.

When should I not use AI?

As per the terms of your contract, AI tools should not be used to generate content and can potentially have copyright restrictions. Please see details below:

- **Generating content for publication:** AI tools should not be used to directly generate or write content of your work. You should remain the author of the work as noted above and in your author contract.
- **Unprotected AI platforms:** Authors should take steps to protect their work and carefully review the terms, conditions and privacy policies of any AI tools they use. They should note, in particular, whether the AI tools used will be trained on material that is inputted.

Authors should be aware that content entered into some AI platforms may be retained or used to improve future services. For this reason, we strongly advise against uploading unpublished manuscript content, sensitive information or confidential material to free-to-use AI tools (e.g. ChatGPT, Claude or Gemini), without checking appropriate safeguards are in place. If you are using AI platforms, please ensure that appropriate safeguards are in place and that doing so is consistent with your contractual obligations.

Sensitive information: Please be aware that uploading confidential or sensitive information to AI platforms may violate copyright law, data protection rules or confidentiality standards

We reserve the right to verify the use of generative AI, and to reject or retract content that breaches this policy or involves undisclosed or unethical AI use. If you have any questions about using AI tools to prepare your manuscript, please contact your editor at Class Professional.