

NIH Public Access Policy: An Overview

The updated NIH Public Access Policy requires all NIH-funded investigators to submit their peer-reviewed journal manuscripts to PubMed Central immediately upon acceptance for publication. This revision eliminates the previous 12-month embargo period and establishes immediate deposit as a condition of compliance. Effective on July 1, 2025, the policy was introduced on an accelerated timeline.

Below is a concise overview of what this means for NIH-funded researchers.



Who is Affected?

- NIH-funded researchers or users of NIH-funded resources (such as CTSI)
- Applies to any peer reviewed author accepted manuscript (AAM) accepted for publication in a journal that's a result of funding by NIH in whole or part through grants, cooperative agreements, contracts, intramural research, or NIH employment



What is Required?

- Manuscripts must be made publicly available on the official publication date (date the Final Published Article (FPA) is first made available in final, edited form, whether in print or electronic (i.e., online) format)
 - Author or publisher submit the AAM to PubMed Central (PMC) upon acceptance OR
 - Publisher submits the FPA if they have an agreement with NLM
- Funding statements & disclaimer that satisfies the NIH Grants Policy Statement (GPS)



Where to Submit

- Publisher submits FPA to PMC, or
- Author submits AAM to PMC via NIH manuscript submission system (NIHMS)



When Requirements Apply

- Applies to peer reviewed manuscripts accepted on/after July 1, 2025
- Does NOT apply to awards closed before this date, even if manuscript was approved after July 1



How to Stay Compliant

- Use MyBibliography to track citation compliance
- Add PMCID to citations once assigned
 - NIHMSID allowed for up to 3 months while awaiting PMCID



Why Compliance Matters

- Non-compliance may result in:
 - Delayed awards or renewals
 - Reduced eligibility for future funding
 - Institutional audits and/or increased monitoring

2024 NIH Public Access Policy – Quick Reference Guide

To help researchers navigate the updated 2024 NIH Public Access Policy, the following overview highlights the key systems, publishing pathways, and compliance considerations involved in making NIH-funded work publicly accessible. These points provide a quick reference to the essential terms, tools, and responsibilities you'll encounter when preparing and submitting manuscripts under the new requirements.

Core Compliance Tools &

Definitions

- MyBibliography: Use to verify NIH compliance.
- PubMed (PM): Citations and abstracts database.
- PubMed Central (PMC): electronic full-text archive and repository free to public access.
- NIHMS: Mandatory system for manuscript deposit; requires eRA Commons login.
 - NIHMS is the only route for authors to self-deposit into PMC

Open Access (OA) vs. Public Access

- Open Access: available for free on publisher website; must be immediate to have the pathway to comply
 - Hybrid journals require selecting the OA option for immediate release if they do not otherwise allow retention of rights to self deposit.
- Public Access: NIH-funded research made freely available in PMC—OA alone is not sufficient.

Rights, Acknowledgement, & Disclaimer Statements

- "This manuscript is the result of funding in whole or in part by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). It is subject to the NIH Public Access Policy. Through acceptance of this federal funding, NIH has been given a right to make this manuscript publicly available in PubMed Central upon the Official Date of Publication, as defined by NIH."
- "Research reported in this [publication/press release] was supported by [name of the Institute(s)] of the National Institutes of Health under award number [grant number]. Cite only grants that supported the research."
- "The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the National Institutes of Health."
- [NIH Grants Policy Statement](#): Sections 4.2.1, 8.2.1 for funding language and 8.5 for non-compliance details.

Special Considerations

- Plan publication costs in advance—they are allowable only if included in the grant proposal or otherwise planned ahead of time.
 - NIH is considering [limits on allowable publishing costs](#); no final decisions have been made, and policies may change. Planning ahead by researching publisher fees can help ensure publication in a policy-compliant journal of choice.
- The University of Utah has NIH-funded resources (e.g., CTSI). If you use these resources, you must acknowledge the specific departmental grant in your acknowledgement statement and add the award to your citation in My Bibliography.
 - Even if you do not have direct NIH funding, you must still comply with NIH policy when using NIH-funded resources.
 - If you're unsure if the resource you are interested in using is NIH funded, contact their office directly. Some resources other than CTSI include Utah Cancer Registry (UCR) and Utah Population Database (UPDB).

Publishing Pathways & Journal Requirements

- Use [UU-funded OA publishing search](#) to find UU-supported journals/publishers.
- [Compliant journals](#) must have: 0-month embargo [publicaccess.research.utah.edu](#) + agreement to deposit all articles or NIH-funded articles and an active agreement status. Can also comply if publisher allows author to retain rights to upload to PMC.
- [Selective deposit journals](#): Authors may arrange individual article deposit.
- Publishers cannot charge for PMC deposit of NIH-funded manuscripts (distinct from APCs).
- Library staff can assist with journal/publisher-specific questions: openaccess@lists.utah.edu
 - picking a non-compliant publishing route will result in noncompliance, review publishing agreements closely