



National Hypertension Taskforce of Australia

Version: 2.0

Last updated: 7 September 2023

Host organisations: Australian Cardiovascular Alliance and Hypertension Australia

Introduction

The National Hypertension Taskforce of Australia welcomes all initiatives to publish high-quality papers related to the Taskforce in scientific journals. This guideline provides recommendations on the process of publication across the following categories:

Position papers from the Taskforce

Scientific papers initiated by Taskforce members

Scientific papers initiated by external parties

1. Position papers from the Taskforce

- If a member(s) of the Taskforce identifies the need for a position paper on a topic related to the remit of the Taskforce, they should submit a short proposal to the Steering Committee for approval (as per Appendix A template). If approved by the Steering Committee, the proposal will be submitted to all the members of the Taskforce for approval, since these papers will bear the name of the Taskforce. Agreement as to whether the statement should be published on behalf of the Taskforce will be determined by majority consensus.
- Authorship will be determined according to the “Authorship criteria” section below.
- Taskforce Members will be invited to contribute as authors or listed in the acknowledgements as appropriate.
- The authors list will include the byline “on behalf of the National Hypertension Taskforce of Australia” and the list of Taskforce members not named in the author byline will be included in the Acknowledgements.
- Author order will be determined by those contributing most to the initiative, and remaining authors will be listed alphabetically.

2. Scientific papers initiated by Taskforce Members

- As many Taskforce Members and members of the Working Groups already work in the field of hypertension, they have the academic freedom to continue with their work as usual, but are encouraged to inform the Steering Committee on new and ongoing papers to ensure that there is no duplication of efforts.
- Authors may invite members of the Taskforce to contribute to paper if they so wish.

- If the work conducted is directly aligned to the research priorities of the Taskforce, reference to the Taskforce may be made in the title or methods of the paper upon approval by the Steering Committee.

3. Scientific papers initiated by external parties

- Any work relating to the remit of the Taskforce but performed by external parties (whether this relates to publications before or after the establishment of the Taskforce) may be of relevance to the work of the Taskforce. Any person with knowledge of such work is encouraged to inform the Steering Committee of the work to be included on the website of the Taskforce.

4. Authorship criteria

For all publications, the principles relating to authorship and contributors will apply as described by the [Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research](#) and according to the [NHMRC Authorship Guidelines](#).

These guidelines define an author as an individual who:

- has made a significant intellectual or scholarly contribution to research and its output, and
- agrees to be listed as an author.

A significant intellectual or scholarly contribution must include one and should include a combination of two or more of the following:

- conception and design of the project or output
- acquisition of research data where the acquisition has required significant intellectual judgement, planning, design, or input
- contribution of knowledge, where justified, including Indigenous knowledge
- analysis or interpretation of research data
- drafting significant parts of the research output or critically revising it so as to contribute to its interpretation.

Contributions to research that do not meet the criteria for authorship should be acknowledged where appropriate. Permission should be obtained from named contributors before acknowledging them in research outputs, since acknowledgement may imply a contributor's endorsement of the research output.

5. Open Access

All publications should be made open access according to [NHMRC Open Access Policy](#). Once a paper is published it will be included on the website of the Taskforce: www.hypertensiontaskforce.au.

6. Disclosure of interests and management of conflict of interest

Disclosure of interests and management of conflicts of interest will be undertaken according to the principles outlined in the [NHMRC guide](#) on this topic, and aligned with the [Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research](#).

According to the [NHMRC guide](#), “a conflict of interest exists in a situation where an independent observer might reasonably conclude that the professional actions of a person are or may be unduly influenced by other interests. The perception that a conflict of interest exists is a serious matter and can raise concerns about the integrity of individuals or the management practices.”

If a conflict of interest is identified, the appropriate decision maker (i.e. the Taskforce Steering Committee) must determine what measures, if any, are most appropriate to manage that conflict of interest. These measures should be tailored to the individual circumstances and could include one or more of the following:

- requiring the public disclosure of the interests, for example when presenting or publishing the research
- involving an appropriate individual to oversee some or all of the research activity
- requiring the researcher to absent themselves from any deliberative decision making regarding the research
- requiring the researcher to play a different or reduced role in some or all of the research
- requiring the researcher to relinquish financial or other interests.

Appendix A

Template for Proposal of a Position Statement of the National Hypertension Taskforce of Australia

Title:	
Lead author/s:	
Proposed author team:	
Background/rationale:	
Evidence gap/need:	
Aim/s (hypothesis if applicable):	
Significance:	