

Peer Review Process

Before being accepted for publication in the BJMO, articles are subjected to the scrutiny of a peer review process during which fellow experts check the validity and suitability of the article at hand. In this, the BJMO employs a single-blinded peer review process, meaning that the authors don't know the identity of the reviewers who evaluated their article (unless when the reviewer specifies otherwise).

Before publication, every article in the BJMO undergoes the following process:

1. Submission of paper

The corresponding author submits the paper to the BJMO editorial office. The BJMO accept submissions by email.

2. Editorial office assessment

The handling editor checks whether paper's composition is in line with the journal's *Author Instructions* to make sure that it includes the required sections and style elements.

3. Invitation of reviewers

The handling editor sends a review invitation to appropriate external reviewers using a database of experts, many of whom are (former) Editorial Board members. These potential reviewers then measure the invitation against their own expertise, conflicts of interest and availability after which they accept or decline the invitation. When declining, the invited expert is invited to suggest an alternative, more suitable reviewer. Depending on the response of the initially selected reviewers, further invitations are issued, until the required number of reviewers (2 or 3) is obtained.

4. Article review

The reviewers who accepted the invitation make a critical appraisal of the article and provide the editor with a detailed point-by-point review of the manuscript. The review form is then forwarded to the editor, with a recommendation to accept or reject it, or with a request for revision (flagged as major or minor) before it can be reconsidered for publication.

5. Review evaluation by the editor

The handling editor considers the returned reviews and bundles the different remarks and recommendations. In this, comments that disparage authors personally or target a specific race, gender, or ethnicity for criticism are deemed unacceptable and reviews including such remarks are removed. If the reviews differ widely, the editor requests a determining opinion/review from the Editor-in-Chief.

6. Author feedback

The handling editor sends an acceptance/rejection/revision email to the author including all relevant reviewer comments. In this, comments are anonymous, unless the reviewer specifies otherwise.

7. Further steps

If accepted, the paper is edited and processed for publication. If a new version of the article is sent back after a request for revision, the reviewers receive it for a second evaluation. If the concerns raised during the first review round have been adequately addressed, the article is accepted for publication and processed for editing and publication

Assuming the rounds of review (1 round for the original submission and 1 round for the revised manuscript), the entire peer-review process from article submission to the final decision takes approximately 4 months.