



## Corrections, Retractions, and Updates to Published Articles

Every article published by *Patient Safety* constitutes the version of record (VoR): the final, definitive, and citable version in the academic literature (see [NISO, 2008](#)). The VoR includes:

- The final manuscript, including the abstract, text, references, graphics, and any accompanying data.
- Any supplemental material.

The VoR ensures that a manuscript is accurate, complete, and citable. Wherever possible, *Patient Safety* maintains the integrity of the VoR per STM Association guidelines: Published articles should be unchanged to the maximum extent possible ([STM Guidelines on Preservation of the Objective Record of Science](#)).

Amending the VoR may be necessary after publication. The editorial team will review any proposed changes to ensure compliance with [the Committee on Publication Ethics](#) (COPE) guidance.

A post-publication notice will accompany any proposed changes and be linked permanently to the original article. This may be as a Correction, a Retraction, an Expression of Concern, or a Removal. These processes aim to ensure changes are transparent and preserve the integrity of the scholarly record.

### What should I do if my article contains an error?

Notify the editorial team as soon as possible if you find an error in your published article, especially an error that could affect the interpretation of data or reliability of information presented. If a corresponding author reaches out to the editorial team about an error, the editorial team will assume that they are speaking on behalf of all authors and that all authors have reviewed and agreed to the error.

Contact the journal's managing editor by emailing [patientsafetyj@pa.gov](mailto:patientsafetyj@pa.gov) if you believe your article requires a Correction or Retraction.

## Post-Publication Notices to Maintain the Integrity of the Scholarly Record

### Corrections

The editorial team recognizes the differences between a major and a minor error.

For Corrections, major errors or omissions are any changes that impact the interpretation of the article but do not change the scholarly integrity of the article.

A separate correction notice will be issued for each major error which clearly details the error and subsequent changes made to the VoR. Under these circumstances *Patient Safety* will:

- Correct the online article.
- Add the Correction to the next available masthead in both the online and print versions of the journal.
- Issue a separate correction notice linked to the corrected version.
- Add a footnote to the article linked to the Correction.
- Paginate and make the Correction available in the online issue of the journal.

Minor errors do not impact the reliability or the reader's understanding of the scholarly content. In lieu of a correction notice, a footnote will be added to the article detailing any minor changes to the article.

## **Retractions**

A Retraction is issued when a major error invalidates article conclusions or when research misconduct or in the event of publication misconduct (e.g., fabricated data, manipulated images, plagiarism, duplicate publication, etc.). The *Patient Safety* editorial team will investigate any potential retraction to ensure accordance with [COPE guidelines](#). Any author or institution may request a Retraction if their reasons meet the criteria for retraction. A Retraction may occur:

- If the research or manuscript constitutes plagiarism.
- If the manuscript has previously been published elsewhere without proper cross-referencing, permission, or justification (e.g., cases of redundant publication or duplicate publication).
- If there is irrefutable evidence that the findings are unreliable, either due to misconduct (e.g., fabricated data or image manipulation) or honest error (e.g., miscalculation or experimental error).
- Following conclusive fraudulent authorship.
- Following compromised peer review.
- Following unethical research.

When a Retraction occurs, *Patient Safety* will:

- Add a “retracted” watermark to the published VoR.
- Issue a separate Retraction, titled “Retraction: [article title],” that will be linked to the retracted article on [patientsafetyj.com](#).
- Paginate and make available the Retraction in the online issue of the journal.
- State the Retraction in the next available masthead of both the print and online versions of the journal.

## **Expressions of Concern**

An Expression of Concern is used to address potentially serious violations (e.g., serious research or publication misconduct), but the outcome of the investigation is inconclusive. It may also be used when the investigation will not be complete for a considerable time.

A Retraction or Correction may follow the Expression of Concern after an investigation and be published with the original article. All are considered part of the permanent published record.

An Expression of Concern may be considered if:

- There is inconclusive evidence of author misconduct (e.g., during research or publication), but the nature of the concerns warrants notifying the readers.
- The editorial team deems that there are well-founded concerns that the findings are unreliable or that misconduct may have occurred. However, there is limited cooperation from the authors' institution(s) to investigate.
- There is an investigation into alleged misconduct related to the publication that has not been, or would not be, fair and impartial or conclusive.
- An investigation is underway, but a judgment will be unavailable for an extended time and the nature of the concerns warrant notifying readers.
- Upon completion of the investigation, if the expressed concerns were deemed to be unsubstantiated, the Expression of Concern will be updated with these findings.

## **Article Removal**

The editorial team may remove an article if it discovers serious problems that a Retraction or Correction cannot address. *Patient Safety* will consider removing a published article if:

- It contains content that could pose a severe risk if followed.
- An author fails to disclose a financial conflict deemed to violate the credibility of the research by the editorial team.
- It contains content that violates the privacy rights of any study participant or patient.
- It is defamatory or infringes other legal rights.
- A court order mandates its removal.

Any article removed from patientsafetyj.com will include a removal notification in its place.

## **Updates and Scholarly Discussion on Published Articles**

### **Addenda**

An addendum notifies of additional information to an article. Addenda may be published if they do not contradict the original publication and are not used to fix errors (i.e., a Correction) or if the author needs to provide essential information. Addenda may be peer reviewed at the discretion of the editorial team.

All addenda will link to their related published article.

### **Comment (Including Response and Rejoinder Correspondence)**

Readers may share comments about a published article. The comment will be shared with the authors, who may submit a response. This author response will be shared with the commentator, who may be invited to submit a rejoinder. The rejoinder will be shared with the authors before publication. This completes the comment period.

The editor-in-chief may reject correspondence during this process, and every comment, response, and rejoinder may be subject to peer review.

All published comments, responses, and rejoinders will link to their related published article.