

Authors preparing a manuscript for *Occupational Health Southern Africa* are permitted to use generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools as their use in research, writing, editing, and reviewing continues to develop and evolve. However, these tools must not be used as a substitute for human critical thinking, expertise, and/or evaluation.

The [ASSAf and SciELO Guidelines for the Use of Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) Tools and Resources in Research Communication](#) provide a comprehensive guide for the use of AI by authors, editors, and reviewers.

Authors are solely responsible for the originality, validity, and integrity of the content of their submissions. As such, AI cannot be listed as an author as it cannot assume responsibility for the content, publication, and integrity of the paper. The manuscript must represent the author's original contribution, and own analysis, interpretation, and ideas.

Authors are expected to use AI tools responsibly and in accordance with principles of publishing ethics. Failure to acknowledge AI-assisted content will be considered a breach of research ethics, and will be seen as plagiarism.

Authors need to review and verify the accuracy, comprehensiveness, and impartiality of all AI-generated output. This includes checking sources to verify information generated by AI, as cited references are often incorrect or fabricated.

If AI was *not* used in preparation of the manuscript, then it must be stated in the Declaration section of the manuscript, as follows:

*Artificial intelligence (AI) was not used in the preparation of this manuscript.*

If AI was used in preparation of the manuscript, then authors are required to complete the [Declaration of use of AI form](#) and submit it with the manuscript. The following statement must also be included in the Declaration section of the manuscript, as follows:

*The author(s) used [name of tool] to [reason] in the preparation of this manuscript. The author(s) take(s) full responsibility for the content of the published manuscript.*