Informed Consent Policy

Patients have a right to privacy that will not be infringed without informed consent. Identifying information, including patients' names, initials, or hospital numbers, will not be published in written descriptions, photographs, and pedigrees unless the information is essential for scientific purposes and the patient (or parent or guardian) has given written informed consent for publication. Any patient who is identifiable will be shown the manuscript to be published. Authors will identify Individuals who provide writing assistance and disclose the funding source for this assistance.

Identifying details will be omitted if they are not essential. Complete anonymity is difficult to achieve, however, and informed consent will be obtained if there is any doubt. If identifying characteristics are altered to protect anonymity, such as in genetic pedigrees, authors will provide assurance that alterations do not distort scientific meaning and editors will so note.

The requirement for informed consent is included in the journal's instructions for authors. When informed consent has been obtained it will be indicated in the published article.