

AUTHOR COMPLIANCE DECLARATION

Ethics Approval, ICMJE Standards & Artificial Intelligence Usage Statement

Mandatory Submission Document: Section Editors require a completed and signed declaration for all submissions to verify ethics oversight, authorship compliance, and AI disclosure prior to peer review.

1. MANUSCRIPT & AUTHOR DETAILS

Manuscript Title:

Corresponding Author: Article Type:

Author Email:

2. ETHICS OVERSIGHT & EXEMPTION STATUS (SELECT ONE)

- ☐ **Option 1: Formal REB/IRB Approval Obtained**
Ethics approval was granted by an institutional Research Ethics Board (REB) or Institutional Review Board (IRB). *(Mandatory: Attach official REB/IRB approval letter as a supplementary file).*
- ☐ **Option 2: Institutional QI / Program Evaluation / Formal REB Waiver**
Project was routine program evaluation/QI, or an official REB waiver was issued. *(Attach waiver/tool if applicable).*
- ☐ **Option 3: Non-Empirical / Direct Scholarly Commentary**
Letter to the Editor, Editorial, Book Review, Commentary, or Perspective containing no human participant research or data collection.
- ☐ **Option 4: Publicly Available / Fully De-Identified Data**
Study relies exclusively on existing open-access databases, public domain repositories, or systematic literature reviews.

Ethics Justification & In-Text Ethics Statement:

3. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) USAGE DECLARATION

Was AI or AI-assisted technology used during any stage of this manuscript's preparation? ☐ NO ☐ YES

If YES, detail the tool(s) used and specific purpose below *(Note: Statement will be published in the Acknowledgements section):*

4. AUTHOR ATTESTATIONS & SIGNATURE

- ☐ **ICMJE Compliance:** The principal author attests that all authors meet the ICMJE guidelines, and that all people that meet the ICMJE guidelines are listed as authors. People that do not meet the ICMJE guidelines should be listed in the acknowledgment section. The journal reserves the right to inquire into the role and responsibilities of the listed authors.
- ☐ **General Attestation & Ethics Compliance:** I confirm that the information provided is complete and accurate. I attest that all AI involvement has been transparently disclosed and accept full responsibility for the manuscript's ethical compliance and content.

Corresponding Author Signature: Date (YYYY-MM-DD):

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Ethics Status: ☐ Verified ☐ Flagged AI Statement: ☐ No AI ☐ Yes (In Ack.) ICMJE Verified: ☐ Yes Editor Initials: