STEPS FOR RETROACTIVE COMPLIANCE OF WORKS UNDER THE NIH PUBLIC ACCESS POLICY

Retroactive compliance refers to the process of determining NIH Public Access Policy compliance status for works that are considered as non-compliant per My Bibliography, the Public Access Compliance Monitor (PACM), or other source.

More information: [http://beckerguides.wustl.edu/nihpolicy](http://beckerguides.wustl.edu/nihpolicy)

START

Confirm that the work is in a NCBI My Bibliography account belonging to an author or a Principal Investigator (PI) before starting the retroactive compliance process steps. The following steps are based citations to works added to a My Bibliography account that is linked to an eRA Commons account. Look for the eRA Commons icon in the upper left of the My Bibliography page. The icon is confirmation that the My Bibliography account is linked to an eRA Commons account. If no icon appears, see Using the My Bibliography Tool in My NCBI and Linking Your eRA Commons Account.

1. Is the work applicable per NIH Public Access Policy criteria? See Applicability criteria. YES to all three criteria means that the work is applicable. If you are not able to locate the date of acceptance for a work or are if you are not sure the work was published in a journal, contact Cathy Sarli or Amy Suiter.

2. If the work is not applicable, note N/A on My Bibliography using the “Edit Status” function. See My Bibliography for guidance.

3. If the work is applicable, is “PMC Journal – In Process” noted in My Bibliography?

   If “PMC Journal – In Process” is noted:
   This means that the work was published in a Submission Method A or B journal, and will be submitted to PMC around the time of publication with a PMCID available within 90 days post-publication.

   🚨 Is there a RED dot next to the work in My Bibliography?
   If yes, check the Submission Method A journal list. Confirm that the journal is on the Submission Method A list and that the work was published within the Start and End dates as noted. If yes, contact the journal to clarify the submission status of the work to PMC and if no PMCID within two weeks, contact NIH to report the non-compliant status of the work.
   If the journal is not on the Submission Method A journal list, this means that the work was published in a journal offering a Submission Method B option and the author should contact the journal to clarify the submission status of the work to PMC.

   🟢 Is there a YELLOW dot next to the work in My Bibliography?
   If yes, this means that the work is within the 90 days post-publication window per PMCID requirement.
   Track this work weekly to confirm that a PMCID is assigned within 90 days post-publication.

4. If the work is applicable, is there a NIHMSID noted in My Bibliography?

   If a NIHMSID is noted:

   A PMCID is required within 90 days post-publication of a work.
This means that the work was published in a Submission Method C or D journal and has been submitted to NIHMS for processing and assignment of a PMCID.

Is there a RED dot next to the work in My Bibliography?
If yes, search the NIH Manuscript Submission system (NIHMS) using the NIHMSID for the work to clarify the processing status of the work (NOTE: a NCBI account is required to access NIHMS). If no information is available, contact the NIHMS Help Desk to clarify the status of the work and to find out which author has been assigned as the responsible author for the NIHMS approval tasks. Include the full citation including the PMID for the work. NIHMS will provide the current processing status of the work and the name of the responsible author for the NIHMS approval steps.

Sample language to the NIHMS Help Desk:
Please advise as to the processing status of the following work and which author has been assigned as the responsible author for the NIHMS approval steps.

| [INSERT CITATION TO THE WORK, PMID AND NIHMSID (if known)]. |

If the responsible author is not timely completing the NIHMS approval steps required for a PMCID, any other author can be assigned as the responsible author. This is done by sending an email to the NIHMS Help Desk.

Sample language to the NIHMS Help Desk:
Please assign [INSERT NAME AND EMAIL ADDRESS] as the responsible author for the NIHMS approval steps for the following work per NIH Public Access Policy: [INSERT CITATION TO THE WORK AND PMID AND NIHMSID (if known)].

Another option is to search the Public Access Compliance Monitor (PACM) using the PMID for the work. PACM will provide more detailed information as to the processing status of the work and also note who the responsible author is for completing the NIHMS approval tasks required for assignment of a PMCID. If you need a specific work searched in PACM, please contact the PACR for your group or Cathy Sarli or Amy Suiter. A PACR is a person designated as the authorized delegate to access PACM.

In most cases, a non-compliant work with a NIHMSID is stalled in NIHMS due to the responsible author not timely completing the NIHMS approval steps. A PMCID is required within 90 days post-publication. There may also be an instance where a NIHMSID is available but no manuscript files were submitted. This means that someone started the NIHMS submission process but did not submit the manuscript files, also called an "empty record." Authors should confirm that the work was published in a Submission Method C journal before submitting files for an empty record.

Is there a YELLOW dot next to the work in My Bibliography?
If yes, this means that the work is within the 90 days post-publication window per PMCID requirement. Track this work weekly to confirm that a PMCID is assigned within 90 days post-publication.

5. If the work is applicable and there is no “PMC Journal – In Process” or a NIHMSID, this means one of the following:

1) The work was published in a journal offering a Submission Method B option and has not been noted as such in My Bibliography by one of the authors.
2) The work was published in a Submission Method C journal and the authors have not yet self-submitted the work or assigned a third party to do so.
3) The work was published in a Submission Method D journal and has been submitted to NIHMS by the journal but the responsible author for the NIHMS approval tasks (by default: the corresponding author) has not yet approved the submission as made by the journal.

4) The work was published in a Submission Method D journal and has not been submitted to NIHMS by the journal.

These scenarios require investigation to determine the Submission Method of the journal the work was published in to start the compliance process. If available, a review of the copyright transfer agreement signed by the authors for the work might help determine the Submission Method of the journal. If the copyright transfer agreement is not available, see Finding Journal Policies for Submission Methods for guidance on how to find journal policies for NIH-funded authors and journal contact information. If no information can be located, authors will need to contact the journal for clarification as to policies for NIH-funded authors.

Sample language to send to the journal:
Please advise as to your policies for NIH-funded authors who are required to comply with the NIH Public Access Policy.

If the authors paid a journal to have their work published as a Submission Method B option, they should note the work as being a Submission Method B using the My Bibliography “Edit Status” function and follow-up with the journal to clarify the submission status of the work.

If the journal is a Submission Method C journal, one of the authors should self-submit the work to NIHMS or assign a third party to submit the work. See NIHMS Submission Help for Principal Investigators and None-PI Submitters for guidance on how to submit the work to NIHMS or contact Cathy Sarli to arrange for a submission to be made. See Becker Library Submission Services.

A NIHMSID is not available in My Bibliography until the responsible author has completed the first of two NIHMS approval steps.

If the journal is a Submission Method D journal, the first step is to confirm that the work was submitted to NIHMS by the journal. Contact the NIHMS Help Desk to clarify the submission status of the work and which author has been assigned as the responsible author for the NIHMS approval tasks.

Sample language to the NIHMS Help Desk:
Please advise if the following work has been submitted to NIHMS and if so, which author has been assigned as the responsible author for the NIHMS approval steps for the following work per NIH Public Access Policy: [INSERT CITATION TO THE WORK AND PMID].

NIHMS will provide the current processing status of the work and the name of the responsible author for the NIHMS approval steps.

If the work has been submitted to NIHMS:
Contact the responsible author and ask them to log-in to NIHMS to complete the first NIHMS approval step to start the processing required for assignment of a PMCID.
If the responsible author does not timely complete the NIHMS approval steps required for a PMCID, any other author to the work can be assigned as the responsible author. This is done by sending an email to the NIHMS Help Desk.

Sample language to the NIHMS Help Desk:
Please assign [INSERT NAME AND EMAIL ADDRESS] as the responsible author for the NIHMS approval steps for the following work per NIH Public Access Policy: [INSERT CITATION TO THE WORK AND PMID].
If the work has NOT been submitted to NIHMS:
Contact the journal to clarify the submission status of the work. Check the journal website for contact information. See Finding Journal Policies for Submission Methods for guidance on how to find journal contact information.

Sample language to send to Method D journals:

Please advise as to the submission status of the following work per NIH Public Access Policy:

[INSERT FULL CITATION TO THE WORK INCLUDING THE PMID AND DOI].

This work is applicable under the NIH Public Access Policy and according to your policy as noted on [INSERT URL TO JOURNAL POLICY] the journal will submit works to PubMed Central (PMC) on behalf of NIH-funded authors. To date, the work has not been submitted to the NIH Manuscript Submission system (NIHMS) in preparation for posting to PMC. The authors are unable to demonstrate compliance with the NIH Policy until the work is submitted.

If no response from the journal after two emails or if the journal does not provide sufficient information as to the submission status, please contact Cathy Sarli to obtain a statement to send to journals that are not timely submitting or responding to emails. The statement triggers the right of authors to self-submit the work via Submission Method C if no response from the journal.

SHORTCUT STEPS

- Find the work in PubMed. Does the work have a PMCID noted on the record page below the abstract? If not, note the PMID to use for further searching.
- Add the PMID of a work to the PMID-PMCID Converter tool to see if the work has a NIHMSID or a PMCID. The PMID-PMCID Converter tool is often updated sooner than PubMed.
- Add the PMID or NIHMSID to NIHMS using the “Find Manuscript” tool (NOTE: a NCBI account is required to access NIHMS). There is also a Watch Request option available in NIHMS to track the work.

- Add the PMID of the work to PACM using the “Search by PMID” tool. If you do not have access to PACM, contact Cathy Sarli or Amy Suiter.

PACM will provide following information:
- Compliance status of a work
- Method A journal
- NIHMSID (if available)
- Name of the author responsible for the NIHMS approval steps
- Date of a submission of a work to NIHMS
- Processing status of a work in NIHMS
- PMCID (if available)

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Questions? Contact Cathy Sarli or Amy Suiter