Guidelines for reviewing manuscripts for The Journal of Pediatrics

I. Unpublished manuscripts are the property of the authors. The information contained therein must not be used or shared. If you show this manuscript to anyone while preparing your review, please state who and why in your Confidential Comments for the Editors. Destroy the manuscript after reviewing.

II. In the Confidential Comments to Editors ONLY, indicate whether the manuscript should be accepted, rejected, or potentially accepted after revisions are made. Be as specific as possible in your Confidential Comments to the Editors, and include the rationale for your recommendation. Please indicate if any part of the paper should be elucidated in an editorial; the Editors would appreciate your suggestions of potential editorial writers (including yourself).

III. In the Comments to Authors, write specific constructive criticisms which, if followed, would improve the manuscript to your satisfaction. Please number your comments to the authors in order to facilitate their response. *Do not* insert your comments or line edits in a separate file; only comments included in the online review form can be sent to the Editors and Authors. **Do not give any indication of your recommendation regarding acceptance in the Comments to Authors.** However, if you are not in favor of acceptance, be sure to tell the authors your specific objections. Do comment on all of the following (if applicable):

A. Originality/novelty/importance: Does this observation address an important question that has not already been answered from the literature? Would this be an important addition to the literature?

B. Are there any ethical issues regarding conflict of interest, informed consent, IRB approval, possible duplicate publication, etc.? As required by The Journal, authors must upload in-press submissions and/or prior publications that have overlapping information with the submitted manuscript. Additional manuscripts and/or published articles are included after the current manuscript in the PDF. Please feel free to include comments regarding overlap in your review.

C. Is this a randomized controlled trial? If so, are the following elements included: (1) clinical trials registry and identification number; and the (2) CONSORT flowchart?

D. Text presentation
   1. Abstract:
      - Does the Abstract accurately reflect the contents of the manuscript?
   2. Introduction:
      - Does it state the problem and study objectives clearly and adequately?
      - Does it review the background adequately, yet succinctly?
   3. Methods:
- Were the methods suitable? Is the design sufficient to answer the question?
- Does the section contain enough detail? Too much?
- Is the study group described adequately?
- Are the equipment and techniques described adequately?
4. Results:
- Are the data sufficient to answer the question? Is there enough detail? Too much?
- Do all data presented relate to the main point?
- Is the statistical analysis adequate?
5. Discussion:
- Is the section too long? Is there material that does not relate to the main point or overlaps with another section?
- Is previous work in the field reviewed adequately and fairly?
- Do all conclusions proceed logically from the statistical results? Have the data been interpreted accurately and objectively?
- Do the conclusions answer the aims of the study?
- Are the limitations of the study discussed adequately?
6. Tables and Figures:
- Are there enough illustrations? Too many? Is there overlap with text?
- Are labels clear? Are important features visible and well marked?
- Are legends understandable?
- Is the quality of the figures adequate for publication?
7. References:
- Are there more than necessary? Do all references relate to the question? Could individual studies be cited instead from review articles?
- Do they cover the current state of the art fairly? Are any important references omitted?
- Are there misquotes or misinterpretations of references?

IV. Please recommend specific cuts. All manuscripts can be shortened.

IF THIS IS A REVISED MANUSCRIPT:
As one of the original reviewers of this manuscript, you do not need to conduct a full review of this revised version. You need only confirm that the authors have responded satisfactorily to your comments. Since the authors have made changes specifically as a result of your suggestions, your review is very important!

If you would like to view the comments of the reviewers to compare with the authors’ point-by-point response, please log in to EES, click “Pending Assignments,” click the link next to “Author Decision Letter,” and scroll down to the reviewers’ comments.

ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES FOR REVIEWERS OF COMMENTARIES, MEDICAL PROGRESS ARTICLES, GRAND ROUNDS ARTICLES, AND WORKSHOP/SYMPOSIUM SUMMARIES:
Review of these article types differs slightly from the usual peer-review process. You should state if the topic is relevant to the practicing physician, has up-to-date information, and is
complete. The manuscript should still be rigorous as to accuracy, style of writing, conciseness, and depth of academic endeavor. Additional instructions are included in the reviewer invitation.

ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES FOR REVIEWERS OF LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:
After viewing the Letter, please complete the online review form to let us know whether the Letter, in your opinion:

_____ deserves publication with your reply to the authors of the Letter, which we must receive by the deadline provided in the original invitation. *This reply should be uploaded in the Comments to Author box of the online review form. Be sure to include the names, degrees, and affiliations of all reply authors, and your complete contact information as the corresponding author. Please note that if the Editors decide that the Letter reaches a high enough priority for publication, your reply may accompany the published Letter;

_____ deserves publication, but requires no reply on your part; or

_____ does not deserve publication (please state the reasons for this decision in the Comments to Editor box of the online review form). In this instance, you may also include a written response to be sent directly to the authors of the Letter, if you wish, in the Comments to Author box of the online review form.