

Confidentiality and pre-publicity

The policy outlined on this page applies to *Nature* journals (those with the word "*Nature*" in their title). NPG publishes many other journals, each of which has separate publication policies described on its website. A current list of these journals, with links to each journal's homepage [is available](#).

Confidentiality

Nature journals keep confidential all details about a submitted manuscript and do not comment to any outside organization about manuscripts under consideration by the journals while they are under consideration or if they are rejected. The journal editors may comment publicly on published material, but their comments are restricted to the content itself and their evaluation of it.

After a manuscript is submitted, correspondence with the Nature journal, referees' reports and other confidential material, whether or not the submission is eventually published, must not be posted on any website or otherwise publicised without prior permission from the editors. The editors themselves are not allowed to discuss manuscripts with third parties or to reveal information about correspondence and other interactions with authors and referees.

Referees of manuscripts submitted to Nature journals undertake in advance to maintain confidentiality of manuscripts and any associated supplementary data.

Pre-publicity

Our policy on the posting of particular versions of the manuscript is as follows:

1. You are welcome to post pre-submission versions or the original submitted version of the manuscript on a personal blog, a collaborative wiki or a preprint server at any time (but not subsequent pre-accept versions that evolve due to the editorial process).
2. The accepted version of the manuscript, following the review process, may only be posted 6 months after the paper is published in a Nature journal. A publication reference and URL to the published version on the journal website must be provided on the first page of the postprint.
3. The published version—copyedited and in Nature journal format—may not be posted on any website or preprint server.

For open access content published under a Creative Commons license, authors can replace the submitted version with the final published version at publication as long as a publication reference and URL to the published version on the journal website are provided.

Posting of articles on authors', institutions' and funders' websites after publication is explained in NPG's [license to publish](#) policy.

More details about the Nature journals' pre-publicity policy:

Nature journal authors must not discuss contributions with the media (including other scientific journals) until the publication date; advertising the contents of any contribution to the media may lead to rejection. The only exception is in the week before publication, during which contributions may be discussed with the media if authors and their representatives (institutions, funders) clearly indicate to journalists that their contents must not be publicized until the journal's press embargo has elapsed. Authors will be informed of embargo dates and timings after acceptance for publication of their articles.

Presentation and discussion of material submitted to a Nature journal at scientific meetings is encouraged, but authors must indicate that their work is subject to [press embargo](#) and decline to discuss it with members of the media. Authors are free to publish abstracts in conference proceedings and to distribute preprints of submitted or "in press" papers to professional colleagues, but not to the media.

Occasionally, journalists and editors hear about work at talks given at scientific meetings and mention this work in meeting reports or editorials in their journals. In these cases, a Nature journal will assess the extent to which authors have solicited this interest or cooperated with journalists. If, in the judgement of the editors, the journal's embargo policy has been broken, the submitted paper may be rejected, even if it is technically "in press."

Contributions being prepared for or submitted to a Nature journal can be posted on recognized preprint servers (such as [arXiv](#)), and on collaborative websites such as wikis or the author's blog. The website and URL must be identified to the editor in the cover letter accompanying submission of the paper, and the content of the paper must not be advertised to the media by virtue of being on the website or preprint server. Material in a contribution submitted to a Nature journal may also have been published as part of a PhD or other academic thesis.

Taxonomic descriptions. Authors of papers that contain taxonomy (that is, the formal nomenclature and description of a newly discovered species) should be aware that it is possible for third parties to exploit the prior publication of nomenclature at any time between online posting of a preprint and the print publication date in a journal, by publishing the name in print and asserting priority according to the rules of the Code of Zoological Nomenclature. Nature Publishing Group takes no responsibility for such assertions

of priority in the case of manuscripts it publishes if the content of those manuscripts have previously appeared in the public domain as online preprints or other form of online posting.

Editorials providing information about pre-publicity policy:

Nature Neuroscience clarifies policies on overlapping or concurrent submissions and embargo. *Nature Neuroscience*. [Navigating issues of related submission and embargo](#), July 2014.

The growing popularity of preprint servers is enriching the landscape of scientific communication. *Nature Photonics*. [Celebrating the arXiv](#), January 2012.

Press embargoes of research articles can serve journals, researchers and journalists—as long as everyone plays by, and understands, the rules. *Nature Chemistry*. [Stop press](#), October 2010.

More researchers should engage with the blogosphere, including authors of papers in press. *Nature*. [It's good to blog](#), 26 February 2009.

Scientists may display drafts of their research papers on an established preprint server before or during submission to *Nature* or any *Nature* journal. *Nature*. [Nature respects preprint servers](#), 17 March 2005.

Exposure of preprints on servers does not preempt their submission. *Nature*. [Preprints and Nature](#), 4 December 1997.

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