

OHDSI Authorship Guidance

This document aims to help determine who qualifies for authorship on an OHDSI scientific paper.

Authorship requirements

OHDSI follows the ICMJE guidelines for authorship requirements:

- **Substantial** contributions to
 - the **conception** or **design** of the work, OR
 - the **acquisition** of, or **access** to the data, OR
 - **analysis** of the data, OR
 - **interpretation** of results

AND

- **Drafting** the work or **reviewing** it critically for important intellectual content,

AND

- Final **approval** of the version to be published,

AND

- Agreement to be **accountable** for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

Those who contributed to the paper but do not meet these requirements may be included in the acknowledgement section of the paper.

Lead / senior author

The contributor who did most of the work is the lead / senior author and can choose to be either the first or the last author.

When writing a paper

Before initiating the paper

Make sure authors are aware of OHDSI's authorship requirements (e.g. by pointing to this document).

While writing the paper

Authors can self-identify as authors when they believe they meet the criteria by

- adding their name to the manuscript, and
- writing a short text (one or two sentences) how they meet the 1st criterium (Substantial contribution to the conception or design of the study, the acquisition of or access to the data, analysis of the data, and interpretation of results).

For this purpose, a table can be added to the start of the manuscript.

When submitting

The lead / senior author has **final authority** to decide on whether authors meet the criteria, and may remove authors after communicating with them. The lead / senior author also decides the author order.

Examples

Scenarios where the contributor **meets** the criteria for authorship (assuming the contributor also reviews and approves the manuscript and agrees to be held accountable):

- Interpreting the data and writing the first full draft of the manuscript, including outline.
- Contributing to the design of the study, for example by reviewing negative controls.
- Creating cohort definitions used in the study.
- Developing the study package implementing the study.
- Performing a literature review informing the design of the study.
- Performing a literature review, and putting the study results in the context of the prior research.
- Helping interpret results by contributing to the discussion of the results.
- Performing a statistical analysis of the data.
- Designing novel visualizations of the results.
- Executing the study by using OHDSI's standardized analytical tools (e.g. ATLAS).
- Providing technical support for the execution of the study, for example debugging the study package execution at a site.
- Having developed software used in the study.
- Having converted data used in the study to the Common Data Model.

Scenarios where the contributor **does not meet** the criteria for authorship:

- Editing the manuscript for grammatical mistakes.
- Making minor edits to the choice of words in the manuscript.
- Attending meetings without making substantial contributions to the discussion.
- Executing the study package on data, but not reviewing the manuscript.
- Being the manager / superior of someone who made substantial contributions to the paper.
- (Re)formatting the paper for a specific journal.
- Having developed software used in the study, but not reviewing the manuscript.
- Having converted data to the Common Data Model, but not reviewing the manuscript.