



Policy covers:	Sharing of research
Relevant to:	Grant holders
What is this?	This policy explains how NICHS-funded research must be published and shared. It ensures findings are openly available to support research, care, and public benefit.
Key points:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research articles must be open access immediately, with no embargo • Publications must use a CC BY licence • You must include a data availability statement • You must declare any use of AI in research outputs • We may monitor compliance and require evidence as part of reporting
Last updated:	March 2026
Review cycle:	Annual
Applies from:	Updates apply to current and ongoing awards unless stated otherwise

NICHS open and public access policy

12th March 2026

1. Purpose and Principles	NICHS believes that the best way to maximize the impact of the research we fund is to provide open and unrestricted access to published research articles. This facilitates the rapid sharing of knowledge to prevent, treat, and care for chest, heart, and stroke conditions.
2. Scope	This policy applies to all peer-reviewed research articles (including original research, systematic reviews, and non-commissioned reviews) that are supported in whole or in part by NICHS funding. It does not apply to book chapters, monographs, or editorials. Where appropriate, other research outputs should follow these principles.

3. Core Requirements	
Immediate Access:	Articles must be made freely and immediately available in Europe PMC at the time of final publication, with no embargo period.
Licensing:	All articles must be published under a Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY 4.0) license. This license allows for maximum re-use, including machine-reading and data mining.
Rights Retention:	To ensure compliance, authors must include the following statement in all submissions: "For the purpose of open access, the author has applied a CC BY public copyright licence to any Author Accepted Manuscript version arising from this submission."

4. Routes to Compliance	
Route 1 (Gold):	Publish in a fully open-access journal where the publisher deposits the final version in Europe PMC.
Route 2 (Green):	Publish in a subscription journal and self-archive the Author Accepted Manuscript (AAM) in Europe PMC immediately upon publication, using the Rights Retention Statement.

5. Data and AI Alignment	
Data Availability Statement:	All articles must include a statement explaining how the underlying research data can be accessed. Where data has commercial value (e.g., AI training assets), access may be "managed" in accordance with the NICHS IP Policy. Where data is not openly available, the reasons must be clearly explained.
AI Disclosure:	Any use of Generative AI in the production of the research must be transparently disclosed in the 'Methods' or 'Acknowledgements' section.
IP Conflict:	If a patent application is being prepared, publication may be delayed for a maximum of 90 days. Any delay must be justified and agreed in advance with NICHS.

6. Funding	NICHS invites applicants to include reasonable Open Access costs in their grant applications, which will be considered on a case-by-case basis. NICHS will consider reasonable Open Access costs where they are appropriately justified.
7. NICHS policies	This policy forms part of the NICHS Research Governance Framework. It should be read in conjunction with the General Terms and Conditions of our research grants, as well as specific policies regarding Generative AI, Conflict of Interest, Intellectual Property, and our established positions on EDI and PPI.
8. Compliance and monitoring	NICHS may monitor compliance with this policy and may require evidence of compliance as part of grant reporting. Failure to comply may be taken into account in future funding decisions.