

# ABSTRACT FINAL REPORT

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## Abstract 50

### General Information

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### Abstract Information

Abstract Title : Study of Peer Reviewing Process in Approved Journals of Mashhad University of Medical Sciences  
Abstract : Background: Peer-reviewing is widely accepted by journals' editors as an essential approach to examine the quality of scientific manuscripts. It is recommended that this process be examined periodically. This study aimed to describe peer-reviewing processes adopted by scientific journals of Mashhad University of Medical Sciences. Methods: Using a descriptive cross-sectional design, a total of 132 manuscripts submitted to 19 scientific journals of Mashhad University of Medical Sciences during March 2013 to March 2014 were selected through stratified random sampling. Data were gathered by permitted access to the journals' websites, and interviewing journals' staff and editors. SPSS 11.5 were used to analyze data. Results: More than 70% of journals' language was English (15 out of 19), and the rest were published in Persian. All journals used double blinded peer-reviewing. About 60% of journals required the reviewers to review the manuscripts using checklists. In 5 journals, corresponding authors

were informed about the manuscript status only through email. Number of reviewers varied from 2 to 6 among journals. Highest and lowest acceptance rates among journals were 83% and 14%, respectively. The time needed for the manuscripts to be reviewed by reviewers ranged from 1 to 6 months, with average of 35.62 days. Number of manuscripts rejected before peer-reviewing process (n=38), was greater than those rejected after this process (n=17). Conclusion: Shifting the journal's language into English, and establishing cooperative communication with international experts in journalism will be a key step in enhancing journals' standards and being included in popular, respected indexing systems. Keywords: peer reviewing; peer reviewing process; scientific journals; scientific manuscript