


Original Article

How to Report the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Scientific Articles: A Scoping Review and Taxonomy of Editorial Policies

Cómo Reportar el Uso de Inteligencia Artificial en Artículos Científicos: Una Revisión de Alcance y Taxonomía de Políticas Editoriales

Juan Aníbal González-Rivera ^{1*}

1 Ponce Health Sciences University, Ponce, Puerto Rico.  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0622-8308>

* Correspondence: jagonzalez@psm.edu

Received: November 27, 2025 | Accepted: January 19, 2026 | Published: February 19, 2026

WWW.REVISTACARIBENADEPSICOLOGIA.COM

Cite as:

González-Rivera, J.A. (2026). How to report the use of artificial intelligence in scientific articles: A scoping review and taxonomy of editorial policies. *Revista Caribeña de Psicología*, 10(1), e17451.

<https://doi.org/10.37226/rcp.v10i1.17451>

ABSTRACT

Objective. This study maps and synthesizes, for the period 2023–2025, the policies and guidelines that require or recommend disclosure of artificial intelligence (AI) use in scientific manuscripts. It also introduces a practical taxonomy of disclosure elements with bilingual (EN/ES) templates readily available for authors and editors. **Method.** A scoping review was conducted in accordance with PRISMA-ScR and PRISMA-S standards. A multi-source search was performed across organizations such as ICMJE, COPE, and WAME; major publishers including AAAS/Science, Nature/Springer Nature, Elsevier, IEEE/ACM, Taylor & Francis, and Wiley; journals and portals such as PLOS; and sector-wide resources including STM and EQUATOR. The analysis covered materials published between January 1, 2023, and October 21, 2025. Official editorial policies, position statements, and public guidelines were included, while individual opinions without institutional endorsement were excluded. **Results.** A core consensus was identified emphasizing that AI cannot be listed as an author, that its use must be transparently disclosed with non-delegable human responsibility, and that confidentiality prohibits uploading manuscripts or data to non-approved AI services, particularly during peer review. However, operational differences remain regarding where to place the disclosure, the required level of detail—such as the tool and version used, prompts, and verification—and the treatment of images or code, which face strict restrictions in several publishing houses. To harmonize these criteria, the AI Use Disclosure for Research Articles (AI-Use-12) is proposed as a standardized 12-item reporting framework. **Conclusions.** It is recommended that journals adopt a formal “AI Use Disclosure” section and design editorial workflows that complement rather than replace human judgment with automated detectors of variable accuracy. Comparative tables, a timeline, a checklist, and declaration templates aligned with current editorial policies are provided.

Keywords: artificial intelligence; transparency; editorial policies; scientific integrity; disclosure

RESUMEN

Objetivo. Este estudio mapea y sintetiza, para el período 2023–2025, las políticas y directrices que exigen o recomiendan la divulgación del uso de inteligencia artificial (IA) en manuscritos científicos. También introduce una taxonomía práctica de elementos de divulgación con plantillas bilingües (EN/ES) disponibles para autores y

editores. **Método.** Se realizó una revisión de alcance conforme a los estándares PRISMA-ScR y PRISMA-S. Se efectuó una búsqueda de múltiples fuentes en organizaciones como ICMJE, COPE y WAME; grandes editoriales, incluidas AAAS/Science, Nature/Springer Nature, Elsevier, IEEE/ACM, Taylor & Francis y Wiley; revistas y portales como PLOS; y recursos sectoriales de alcance amplio, incluyendo STM y EQUATOR. El análisis abarcó materiales publicados entre el 1 de enero de 2023 y el 21 de octubre de 2025. Se incluyeron políticas editoriales oficiales, declaraciones de postura y guías públicas, y se excluyeron opiniones individuales sin respaldo institucional. **Resultados.** Se identificó un consenso central que enfatiza que la IA no puede figurar como autora, que su uso debe divulgarse de manera transparente con responsabilidad humana no delegable, y que la confidencialidad prohíbe cargar manuscritos o datos en servicios de IA no aprobados, particularmente durante la revisión por pares. Sin embargo, persisten diferencias operativas respecto a dónde ubicar la declaración, el nivel de detalle requerido—por ejemplo, la herramienta y versión utilizadas, los *prompts* y la verificación—y el tratamiento de imágenes o código, que enfrentan restricciones estrictas en varias editoriales. Para armonizar estos criterios, se propone AI Use Disclosure for Research Articles (AI-Use-12) como un marco estandarizado de reporte de 12 ítems. **Conclusiones.** Se recomienda que las revistas adopten una sección formal de “Divulgación del Uso de IA” y diseñen flujos editoriales que complementen—en lugar de reemplazar—el juicio humano con detectores automatizados de precisión variable. Se proporcionan tablas comparativas, una línea de tiempo, una lista de verificación y plantillas de declaración alineadas con las políticas editoriales vigentes.

Palabras Claves: inteligencia artificial; transparencia; políticas editoriales; integridad científica; divulgación

INTRODUCTION

The rise of generative artificial intelligence (AI) in scholarly communication has been as rapid as it is far-reaching. Within months, large language models (LLMs) moved from technical curiosities to everyday tools that help researchers sketch ideas, refine style, synthesize literature, and even organize drafts of scientific manuscripts. This broad adoption brings concrete benefits—greater efficiency, reduced language barriers, and clearer exposition—while also introducing nontrivial risks, including factual hallucinations, subtle biases, fabricated citations, and a potential dilution of authorial responsibility. In response, journals, committees, and professional associations have issued policies to channel responsible use around two central pillars: transparency about AI assistance and exclusively human authorship (ICMJE, 2023; COPE, 2023; WAME, 2023; Flanagin et al., 2023; Thorp, 2023).

Early high-profile statements quickly set the tone. Nature (2023) warned that chatbots threaten scientific transparency and established “ground rules,” notably that AI systems cannot be authors and their use must be explicitly disclosed in the manuscript (e.g., Methods or Acknowledgments). In parallel, Science took a firm stance—“ChatGPT is fun, but it’s not an author”—and cautioned about plausible-sounding but incorrect outputs (Thorp, 2023). In medicine, JAMA published an editorial and guidance that

forbid nonhuman authorship and require transparency regarding AI use in both writing and reported procedures (Flanagin et al., 2023; 2023b). Collectively, these milestones accelerated alignment across the publishing ecosystem around basic principles of integrity and accountability.

That normative convergence coexists with heterogeneous implementation across publishers. Elsevier (2025a, 2025b) permits AI for writing assistance with mandatory disclosure before the References section, generally prohibits creating or altering images/figures with AI (unless generation is part of the methods and rigorously described), and restricts AI use during editorial evaluation for confidentiality and reliability reasons. Springer Nature (2025) likewise bans generative images, discourages reviewers from uploading manuscripts to AI tools, and reaffirms that LLMs do not meet authorship criteria. Wiley (2025) requires disclosure upon submission and recommends that authors retain documentation of purpose, impact, and verification. Taylor & Francis (2025) provides guidance for authors, editors, and reviewers and does not permit creating or manipulating figures with AI. These differences—especially regarding where the disclosure appears and the required level of detail (e.g., tool version, prompts, parameters)—underscore the need for more standardized practices.

Cross-cutting frameworks from reference bodies add another layer. In May 2023, ICMJE updated its recommendations to address appropriate recognition of AI-assisted work, reaffirming exclusively human authorship and emphasizing transparency as a precondition for the integrity of the scientific record. COPE (2023), a long-standing authority on editorial conduct, stated that AI tools cannot be authors, that authors should transparently describe any use, and that editors must consider both the limits of detectors and confidentiality obligations during review. WAME (2023) recommended describing the tool and version and, when relevant, prompts and metadata if AI influenced results, figures, or code, while also asking editors and reviewers to disclose any automated assistance.

Several technical societies and publishers have issued more granular guidance. IEEE (2024) instructs authors to identify the system used and the manuscript sections where AI assisted, placing the disclosure in Acknowledgments while maintaining full author responsibility. Consistent with its emphasis on integrity and open science, PLOS (2023–2024) requires details about the tool and how generated content was verified; its peer-review policy forbids delegating evaluation to AI systems and calls for disclosure of any automated assistance during review. These specifics operationalize the “how” of transparency and reflect growing attention to the traceability of AI use.

Confidentiality in peer review is another critical concern. In 2023, the NIH prohibited reviewers from using generative tools to analyze and critique proposals, noting that uploading application content to third-party services may breach security and nondisclosure agreements (NIH, 2023). The NSF (2023) issued a similar notice: reviewers may not upload proposals to unapproved AI tools, and proposers are encouraged to state the scope of AI use in preparing applications. Although these communications concern funding review, the underlying rationale—protecting confidentiality, ensuring original judgment, and avoiding error—has influenced journal practices, reinforcing analogous restrictions for editors and reviewers.

Alongside policy development, empirical evidence has accumulated that supports transparent reporting. A JMIR experiment showed that LLMs can

generate plausible yet fraudulent medical articles with accuracy and bibliography problems, underscoring the need for human verification and explicit disclosure of automated assistance (Májovský et al., 2023). Automatic AI-text detection remains unreliable: OpenAI’s own classifier was discontinued in July 2023 for low accuracy, and recent PLOS ONE studies find inconsistent performance on hybrid or human-edited texts, cautioning against reliance on detectors for editorial decisions (Chemaya et al., 2024). At the content level, Royal Society Open Science reported a tendency toward overgeneralization in LLM-generated abstracts compared with human ones, with potentially serious implications in sensitive domains like medicine (Peters & Chin-Yee, 2025).

Beyond text, generative images and figures pose legal and integrity risks. Multiple publishers (e.g., Springer Nature, 2025; Taylor & Francis, 2025; Elsevier, 2025a) prohibit creating or altering figures with AI except when the generation is part of the methods and can be described and reproduced, due to risks of manipulation, copyright concerns, and opaque training data. Similar caution applies to code and synthetic data, especially when they affect results. In response to increasingly sophisticated fraud, the sector has advanced collaborative initiatives like the STM Integrity Hub (STM Association, 2023) and internal tools to detect anomalous text or images (e.g., “Geppetto” at Springer Nature, 2025). Editors emphasize that these systems should complement—not replace—editorial judgment and peer review.

Two regulatory scenarios merit distinction: AI as the object or methodology of study, and AI as support for writing. For the former, EQUATOR provides robust guidance (SPIRIT-AI for protocols, CONSORT-AI for clinical trials, TRIPOD+AI for prediction models) that requires specifying algorithm version and environment, training/validation data, error handling, and generalizability considerations. Although these extensions target AI-based interventions, their principles—documenting version, runtime conditions, inputs/outputs, and limitations—transfer well to reporting AI use in writing (e.g., stating the tool and dated version, relevant prompts when they influence results, and verification procedures). This conceptual transfer advances reproducibility and enables auditing the traceability of automated support (Rivera et al., 2020; Liu et al., 2020; Collins et al., 2024).

In sum, the field converges on general principles but still diverges on how to report them in practice—where to place the disclosure, which minimum elements to include (tool and version, assisted tasks, prompts, human oversight, source verification, and treatment of images/code), and how to harmonize expectations across disciplines with different publishing cultures. These questions motivate the present scoping review (2023–2025), which systematically maps policies and guidance on disclosing AI use in manuscripts, identifies areas of convergence and gaps, and introduces a practical taxonomy—the AI Use Disclosure for Research Articles (AI-Use-12)—comprising 12 items, accompanied by bilingual declaration templates ready for adoption by authors and editors. My aim is to provide an operational foundation for standardizing AI-use declarations, aligned with transparency requirements and the current limits of automated detection.

Finally, I define key terms used in this manuscript. “Generative AI” refers to systems capable of producing text, images, code, or other content from natural-language instructions. “LLM” denotes large-scale language models. “AI use in writing” includes supportive tasks such as rewriting for clarity, suggesting structure, or producing preliminary summaries and, when applicable, generating code, tables, or figures that materially affect methods or results. “AI-use disclosure” designates the section that specifies the tool and version, purpose and scope, human supervision, verification procedures, and confidentiality/licensing considerations. I contend that this disclosure should be mandatory, standardized, and auditable, placed—depending on journal policy—in Methods, in Acknowledgments, or in a dedicated section before References. In all cases, authorship remains exclusively human, and responsibility for the content is non-delegable.

METHOD

Study Design and Reporting Guidelines

A scoping review was conducted to map and describe the policies and guidelines that specify how to disclose the use of AI in scientific manuscripts. A scoping review is appropriate when the aim is to identify what exists, who issues it, and how it is presented—rather than to evaluate effects or calculate effect sizes (Arksey & O’Malley, 2005; Levac et al., 2010). This manuscript follows the PRISMA-ScR

guidelines for scoping reviews (Tricco et al., 2018) and PRISMA-S for transparent reporting of search strategies (Rethlefsen et al., 2021). Methodological coherence and clarity in describing each step were ensured by consulting the JBI Manual for Evidence Synthesis (JBI, 2024). The overall structure and transparency were also guided by PRISMA 2020 recommendations (Page et al., 2021).

Research Question and Scope

The review question was framed using the PCC format proposed by JBI, which defines the population (actors), concept, and context with precision. The population/actors included authors, editors, and peer reviewers, as well as organizations and entities with authority in scholarly publishing. The concept referred to official policies, statements, or guidelines that regulate or recommend how AI use should be declared in manuscripts and editorial processes. This concept included, but was not limited to, authorship criteria, the location and level of detail required in AI-use disclosures, the treatment of AI-generated images or code, and confidentiality safeguards during peer review. The context covered academic journals, publishers, professional associations, and reporting guidelines, including documents in English and Spanish published between January 1, 2023, and October 21, 2025. Table 1 presents the PCC-based eligibility criteria and rationale organized by component.

Sources of Information

Official websites of major organizations and publishers with recognized authority in scientific policy and academic publishing were consulted. These included ICMJE (2023), COPE (2023), WAME (2023), Elsevier (2025a, 2025b), Springer Nature (2025), Wiley (2025), Taylor & Francis (2025), PLOS (2023–2024), IEEE (2024), ACM (2024), and STM Association (2023), along with the relevant EQUATOR reporting guidelines (SPIRIT-AI, CONSORT-AI, and TRIPOD+AI). For confidentiality and peer-review integrity, the official notices from NIH (2023) and NSF (2023) were also included.

Search Strategy

To ensure comprehensive coverage and minimize the risk of omissions, a hybrid search strategy was implemented combining domain-directed searches (site-searches) on institutional portals with general searches using Boolean operators. This approach made it

possible to locate official policies and guidelines hosted on each organization’s primary domains while identifying related documents in secondary portals. All search strings, execution dates and times, and URLs were systematically recorded, ensuring transparency and reproducibility in line with PRISMA-S recommendations. The last search was conducted on October 21, 2025. To strengthen methodological validity, the strategy was internally reviewed using the PRESS 2015

checklist (McGowan et al., 2016), which helped optimize term selection and balance between sensitivity and specificity. In accordance with PRISMA-S, the full search strategies (exact query strings with operators, limits/filters and language, platform, and execution date/time) are provided in Table 2 (PRISMA-S Search Strategies).

Table 1
Eligibility Criteria (PCC) and Rationale

Component	Inclusion	Exclusion	Rationale
Actors	Editorial bodies (ICMJE, COPE, WAME); publishers (Elsevier, Springer Nature/Nature, Wiley, Taylor & Francis, PLOS, IEEE, ACM); funders (NIH, NSF); sector associations (STM)	Non-institutional blogs or opinions; press notes without official policies	Ensure official and applicable sources
Concept	Policies/guidelines on AI disclosure (authorship, disclosure statements, images/code, confidentiality, IP/licensing)	Texts discussing AI without disclosure guidance	Direct relevance to transparency in reporting
Context	Official websites, <i>Instructions for Authors</i> , policy pages, editorial statements, EQUATOR guidelines (when AI is part of the method)	Duplicate or mirrored versions of the same policy	Ensure traceability and avoid redundancy
Time / Language	2023–2025; English or Spanish	Outside the timeframe; other languages	Maintain recency and accessibility

Table 2
PRISMA-S Search Strategies

Source	Platform	Exact query string (as executed)	Date & time	Notes
ICMJE	Google site-search	site:icmje.org (AI OR "artificial intelligence" OR chatbot OR generative) (recommendations OR authorship)	2025-10-21 16:05	"Updated recommendations (May 2023)".
COPE	Google site-search	site:publicationethics.org (AI OR chatbot) (authorship OR tools)	2025-10-21 16:12	Position statement.
WAME	Google site-search	site:wame.org ("Chatbots" OR "Generative AI" OR "Scholarly Manuscripts")	2025-10-21 16:20	Recommendation page.
Elsevier	Site search	site:elsevier.com ("generative AI policies" OR "AI-assisted writing")	2025-10-21 16:40	Policies + author guidance.
Springer Nature	Site search	site:springernature.com editorial policies AI	2025-10-21 16:55	AI & generative images.
PLOS	Site search	site:plos.org research integrity AI	2025-10-21 17:10	Integrity & ethics.
Wiley	Site search	site:editors.wiley.com "artificial intelligence" publishing	2025-10-21 17:18	Editorial guidance.
Taylor & Francis	Site search	site:taylorandfrancis.com our-policies/ai-policy	2025-10-21 17:25	AI policy.
T&F (figures)	Site search	site:authorservices.taylorandfrancis.com editorial-policies/images-and-figures/	2025-10-21 17:27	No generative figures.
IEEE	Site search	site:open.ieee.org author guidelines artificial intelligence	2025-10-21 17:40	Author guidelines.
NIH	Site search	site:grants.nih.gov NOT-OD-23-149	2025-10-21 17:52	Peer-review prohibition.
NSF	Site search	site:nsf.gov notice generative AI merit review	2025-10-21 18:00	Peer-review prohibition.
EQUATOR	Site search	site:equator-network.org (SPIRIT-AI OR CONSORT-AI OR TRIPOD+AI)	2025-10-21 18:10	Reporting extensions.

Selection Process

Screening was conducted in two phases. First, titles, headers, and introductory paragraphs were reviewed using broad inclusion criteria. Second, full-text screening was performed to confirm eligibility. Prior to full screening, I conducted a personal calibration on 10% of records to refine and standardize inclusion parameters. Because I served as the sole reviewer, inter-rater reliability metrics (e.g., Cohen's κ) were not applicable. To mitigate single-reviewer bias, I maintained a detailed decision log and documented every borderline case for auditability, ensuring full traceability of inclusion judgments. The PRISMA-ScR flow diagram summarizes the number of records identified, included, and excluded, along with reasons for exclusion.

Data Extraction

A structured data-extraction form was designed and piloted before the final extraction. For each eligible document, I recorded metadata, statements on authorship, disclosure requirements, and practical guidance to help authors understand what and how to declare AI use. Data were managed in spreadsheet format under version control (Git). Analyses and figure preparation were conducted in R and Python. Because I worked as a single reviewer, double extraction was not feasible; to mitigate single-reviewer bias, I performed a second-pass verification of all entries, spot-checked coded fields against the source pages, and maintained a detailed decision log of inclusion judgments and

borderline cases for auditability. Table 3 summarizes the extraction dimensions, recorded variables, and coding rules applied.

Assessment of Official Status and Document Quality

Because the evidence base consisted of institutional documents (policies and guidelines), tools for assessing bias risk in empirical studies were not applicable. Instead, I verified the official status of each source through its institutional domain, corporate authorship, and publication within policy or equivalent sections. Document quality was described using the AACODS checklist for grey literature—Authority, Accuracy, Coverage, Objectivity, Date, and Significance (Tyndall, 2010). This assessment was descriptive and intended for transparency only, not for exclusion.

Development of the AI-Use-12 Instrument

Based on the thematic analysis, I developed the AI Use Disclosure for Research Articles (AI-Use-12) instrument, which specifies 12 core elements that a manuscript should report when declaring AI use (see Appendix A in English and Appendix B in Spanish). Its construction followed three straightforward steps:

- (a) generating a broad list of potential elements derived from identified policies.
- (b) refining the list iteratively to ensure clarity and non-redundancy.
- (c) assessing relevance and comprehensibility through a personal critical review.

Table 3

Data Extraction and Coding Fields

Dimension	Variables Recorded	Coding Approach
Metadata	Issuing entity; URL/DOI; date/version	Free text + ISO 8601 date
Authorship	Is AI allowed as an author?	Yes/No (with citation of policy)
Disclosure	Is disclosure mandatory or optional?	Yes/No/Not specified
Location	Where the disclosure should appear	Methods / Acknowledgments / Dedicated section / Submission form
Level of Detail	Tool and provider; version/date; tasks performed; prompts/parameters; human verification and oversight	Present / Absent (with text examples)
Images/Figures	Generation or alteration by AI	Prohibited / Permitted with conditions / Not stated
Code and Data	AI-generated or assisted code/data	Permitted with conditions / Prohibited / Not stated
Peer Review	Use of AI by reviewers/editors	Prohibited / Permitted with conditions
Confidentiality & IP	Rules on privacy, licensing, and intellectual property	Representative literal excerpt
Cross-References	Related guidelines (e.g., EQUATOR)	URL

Table 4
Proposed Items of the AI-Use-12 Instrument (Summary)

#	Item (What Should Be Declared)	Brief Description
1	Tool and provider	Commercial name and company (e.g., ChatGPT, OpenAI)
2	Version and date of use	System version and time of access
3	Purpose of use	Purpose (e.g., linguistic editing, organization, code, tables)
4	Scope / Sections affected	Parts of the manuscript where AI was applied
5	Human oversight	Who reviewed and approved the AI-assisted content
6	Fact and reference verification	How accuracy and citations were verified
7	Relevant prompts/parameters	Only if they affect results, figures, or code; include in supplement
8	Images/Figures	Whether any image/figure was generated or modified with AI and under what conditions
9	Code and data	Whether synthetic code/data were generated and how they were verified
10	Privacy/Confidentiality	Confirmation that no sensitive material was uploaded to unapproved AI services
11	Intellectual property and licensing	How rights and licenses for AI-generated material were handled
12	Compliance with journal policy	Confirmation that disclosure complies with journal rules and that AI was not used in peer review

Ethical Considerations

Ethics approval was not required because the review relied exclusively on publicly available documents. All website usage licenses were respected. In line with NIH and NSF policies, no non-public or confidential information was uploaded to AI services during material review (NIH, 2023; NSF, 2023).

RESULTS

Overview of the Corpus

My search and screening process yielded a final normative corpus of 19 documents, comprising official policies and institutional editorials with regulatory value. This set includes cross-disciplinary guidance (ICMJE, COPE, WAME), policies from major publishers (Elsevier; Springer Nature/Nature; Wiley; Taylor & Francis; PLOS), and guidance from a technical society (IEEE). I also included statements from funding agencies with implications for confidentiality in peer review (NIH and NSF) and three EQUATOR guidelines relevant when AI forms part of the study methods (SPIRIT-AI, CONSORT-AI, TRIPOD+AI). Editorials of record (Nature, Science) were considered as complementary context to interpret the evolution of the field.

Substantively, the corpus converges on three principles: (a) AI does not meet authorship criteria; (b) the use of AI in manuscript preparation must be explicitly disclosed; and (c) responsibility for the content rests exclusively with human authors, with safeguards for confidentiality during peer review.

Document Selection

The PRISMA-ScR diagram (Figure 1) summarizes identification, screening, and eligibility. I located 94 records before deduplication (88 from official sites and 6 from cross-references or institutional editorials). After removing 22 duplicates or mirrors, 72 records remained for title/abstract screening. I excluded 38 items at initial screening (e.g., press releases without a policy page, informational pages lacking disclosure guidance, landing pages without normative content, or items outside the time window). I assessed 34 full texts and excluded 15 for the following reasons: non-institutional opinion/news with no policy (n = 4), obsolete or replaced versions (n = 3), absence of explicit disclosure guidance (n = 5), duplicate/mirror within the same publisher (n = 2), and inaccessible/archived (n = 1). The qualitative synthesis included 19 documents.

Characteristics of Included Documents

Cross-disciplinary entities (ICMJE, COPE, WAME) articulate authorship and transparency principles applicable across fields. Publishers provide operational policies and, in some cases, template disclosures (Elsevier) or dedicated pages for images/figures (Taylor & Francis; Springer Nature). The technical society (IEEE) and funding agencies (NIH/NSF) emphasize confidentiality and discourage the use of AI to

draft reviews or process nonpublic materials. EQUATOR guidelines (SPIRIT-AI, CONSORT-AI, TRIPOD+AI) do not regulate AI-assisted writing, but they require traceability when AI is part of the method, which yields transferable criteria (e.g., model version, execution environment, and error handling). For transparency and quick reference, Table 5 lists all included documents, their type, and a key observation.

Figure 1. PRISMA-ScR flowchart of selection (94 identified → 72 screened → 34 eligible → 19 included).

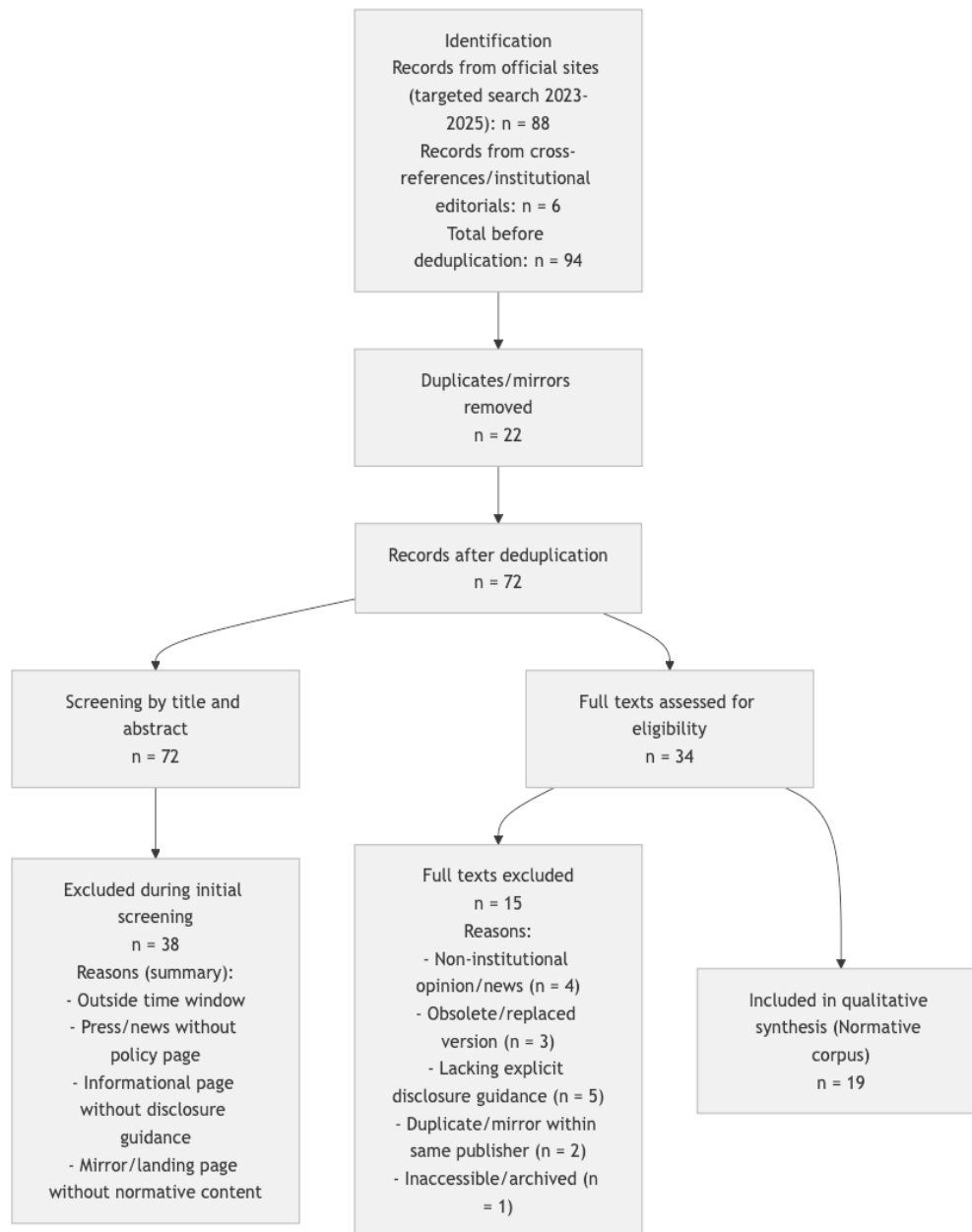


Table 5

Included Documents: List and Category

#	Entity / Document	Type	Key observation	URL/DOI
1	ICMJE (2023). Updated Recommendations (May 2023)	Cross-field guidance	AI is not an author; disclosure recommended.	https://www.icmje.org/news-and-editorials/updated_recommendations_may2023.html
2	COPE (2023). Authorship and AI tools	Ethical position	Transparency; limits of detectors; confidentiality.	https://publicationethics.org/guidance/cope-position/authorship-and-ai-tools
3	WAME (2023). Chatbots, Generative AI, and Scholarly Manuscripts	Recommendation	Specify tool/version and prompts if they affect results.	https://wame.org/page3.php?id=106
4	Elsevier (2025a). Generative AI policies for journals	Publisher policy	Dedicated “AI declaration” section; restrictions on AI images.	https://www.elsevier.com/about/policies-and-standards/generative-ai-policies-for-journals
5	Elsevier (2025b). Use of generative AI in writing for Elsevier	Practical guidance	Model statement; verification of references.	https://www.elsevier.com/about/policies-and-standards/the-use-of-generative-ai-and-ai-assisted-technologies-in-writing-for-elsevier
6	Springer Nature (2025). Editorial policies: AI & generative images	Publisher policy	Prohibits generative images unless part of a described method.	https://www.springernature.com/gp/policies/editorial-policies
7	Wiley (2025). Artificial intelligence in research publishing	Publisher policy	Disclosure at submission; maintain documentation.	https://editors.wiley.com/page/artificial-intelligence-in-research-publishing
8	Taylor & Francis (2025). AI Policy	Publisher policy	Transparency and responsibilities.	https://taylorandfrancis.com/our-policies/ai-policy/
9	Taylor & Francis (n.d.). Images and figures	Figures policy	Do not create/manipulate figures with AI.	https://authorservices.taylorandfrancis.com/editorial-policies/images-and-figures/
10	PLOS (2023–2024). Research Integrity & Ethical Publishing	Publisher policy	Detail tool and human verification.	https://plos.org/research-integrity-and-ethics/
11	IEEE (2024). Author guidelines for AI-generated content	Technical guidance	Identify the system and affected sections.	https://open.ieee.org/author-guidelines-for-artificial-intelligence-ai-generated-text/
12	NIH (2023). NOT-OD-23-149	Funder notice	AI prohibited in peer review (confidentiality).	https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-23-149.html
13	NSF (2023). Notice on generative AI in merit review	Funder notice	AI prohibited in peer review.	https://www.nsf.gov/news/notice-to-the-research-community-on-ai
14	Nature Editorial (2023)	Institutional editorial	“Ground rules”: disclosure and no AI authorship.	https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-023-00191-1
15	Thorp, Science (2023)	Institutional editorial	“ChatGPT is fun, but not an author.”	https://doi.org/10.1126/science.adg7879
16	STM Association (2023)	Sector white paper	Ethical/practical guidance; Integrity Hub.	https://stm-assoc.org/document/stm-generative-ai-paper-2023/
17	SPIRIT-AI (2020)	EQUATOR guideline	Transparency when AI is part of the method.	https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.m3210
18	CONSORT-AI (2020)	EQUATOR guideline	Extended reporting for clinical trials using AI.	https://doi.org/10.1016/S2589-7500(20)30218-1
19	TRIPOD+AI (2024)	EQUATOR guideline	Reporting for prediction models (incl. ML/LLM).	https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj-2023-078378

Normative Convergences

Across 100% of documents, I observed:

- (a) **Exclusively human authorship.** AI cannot be listed as an author or bear responsibility.
- (b) **Mandatory disclosure of AI use.** Policies require or recommend explicitly declaring the tool used, the purpose of use, and the human oversight applied.
- (c) **Responsibility and verification.** Authors bear full responsibility for the accuracy, originality, and legality of content; several policies ask authors to verify facts and references when AI is employed.
- (d) **Confidentiality in peer review.** Uploading manuscripts or proposals to non-authorized AI services is prohibited or discouraged; AI should not be used to draft reviews.

Differences and Gray Areas

Despite the consensus, operational differences remain that affect implementation:

- (a) **Location of the disclosure.** ICMJE/WAME accept Methods or Acknowledgments; Elsevier requires a dedicated section (“AI declaration”) before References; Springer Nature and PLOS allow placement in the manuscript text or submission forms, provided it is explicit.
- (b) **Level of detail.** WAME requests tool, version, and—where applicable—prompts and metadata if AI affects results/figures/code; PLOS and Elsevier emphasize describing human verification.
- (c) **Images/figures and code.** Springer Nature and Taylor & Francis prohibit generating or manipulating figures with AI unless it is part of the method and is fully described; Elsevier restricts use and requires transparency when integrated as methodology. Code and synthetic data may be permitted with conditions and traceability.

Table 6 summarizes convergences and differences by entity.

Location and Level of Detail for AI-use Disclosure

In all documents that address this point, the disclosure must explain the tool used, the purpose (e.g.,

language editing, organization, support for tables), and the human oversight applied. Using the 19 included documents as the denominator ($n = 19$), 12 policies (63%) request the version and date of use, and 8 (42%) request prompts/parameters when AI affects results/figures/code (preferably in the supplement). Elsevier provides a model statement; PLOS and WAME ask authors to state fact/reference verification.

Treatment of Images, Code, and Synthetic Data

Three publishers (Springer Nature, Taylor & Francis, Elsevier) include specific restrictions for AI-generated or AI-edited images/figures. The common principle is that, if used as part of the method, the practice must be declared, justified, and documented for reproducibility. For code and synthetic data, the prevailing stance is “permitted with conditions,” requiring traceability and independent verification.

Confidentiality and Peer Review

NIH and NSF statements prohibit the use of generative AI to process or draft evaluations of proposals. Several publishers translate that standard to journals by indicating that nonpublic manuscripts or materials should not be uploaded to AI services without institutional authorization. This guidance appears in submission forms and reviewer instructions.

Applied Synthesis: the AI-Use-12 instrument

The thematic analysis yielded the AI Use Disclosure for Research Articles (AI-Use-12) instrument, which captures 12 minimum elements for a clear, auditable disclosure aligned with the normative consensus. Table 7 reports the coverage of each item by representative sources.

Taken together, the included documents provide a stable framework for transparency and accountability in the era of generative AI. The observed variability—mainly in the location and level of detail of disclosures and in the treatment of images—supports proposing a minimum set of elements (AI-Use-12) and ready-to-use disclosure templates. These outputs aim to facilitate harmonization across disciplines and to reduce reliance on automated detectors, prioritizing traceability and human verification.

Table 6
Comparative map of requirements by entity (policy synthesis)

Entity	AI as author	AI-use disclosure	Suggested location	AI-generated / edited figures	AI in peer review	Notes
ICMJE	Prohibited	Required / explicit	Methods or Acknowledgments	Not specified	Not addressed	Emphasizes human authorship and transparency.
COPE	Prohibited	Required	Journal-dependent	Caution	Notes limits of detectors	Responsibility and confidentiality.
WAME	Prohibited	Required and detailed	Methods/Ack./dedicated section	Journal-dependent	Disclosure by editors/reviewers	Include version and prompts if impacting results.
Nature (editorial)	Prohibited	Required	Methods/Acknowledgments	Restrictions	Discouraged	“Ground rules” for responsible use.
Science (editorial)	Prohibited	Required	Journal-dependent	—	—	Position: “not an author.”
Elsevier	Prohibited	Required	“AI declaration” section	Restricted (unless method)	Restricted	Provides template; verification of references.
Springer Nature	Prohibited	Required	Text or submission form	Prohibited unless method	Prohibits uploading to non-approved AI	Emphasis on generative images.
Wiley	Prohibited	Required	At submission	Restrictions	—	Maintain documentation of use.
Taylor & Francis	Prohibited	Required	Journal-dependent	Does not allow creating/manipulating figures	—	Dedicated figures policy pages.
PLOS	Prohibited	Required (detailed)	Text or submission form	—	Prohibited in peer review	Requires verification of AI-assisted content.
IEEE	Prohibited	Required	Acknowledgments	—	Prohibits uploading confidential text	Identify system and affected sections.
NIH	—	—	—	—	Prohibited in peer review	Official confidentiality notice.
NSF	—	—	—	—	Prohibited in peer review	Official confidentiality notice.

Table 7
Coverage of the 12 AI-Use-12 items by representative sources.

#	Item (What Should Be Declared)	Representative sources
1	Tool and provider	Elsevier; PLOS
2	Version and date of use	WAME; PLOS
3	Purpose of use	Elsevier; ICMJE
4	Affected sections	ICMJE; IEEE
5	Prompts/parameters (if impacting results/figures/code)	WAME
6	Human oversight and verification	PLOS; Elsevier
7	Scope and limitations observed	COPE; PLOS
8	AI-generated/edited images/figures	Springer Nature; Taylor & Francis; Elsevier
9	Code and/or synthetic data	WAME; Elsevier
10	Privacy/confidentiality	NIH; NSF; Springer Nature
11	Intellectual property and licensing	Taylor & Francis; Elsevier
12	Compliance with journal policy and no AI in peer review	PLOS; NIH; NSF

Note. Coverage percentages in the text use $n = 19$ as the denominator. “Representative sources” indicates at least one source explicitly suiting the item.

DISCUSSION

This scoping review shows a clear normative consensus across cross-field organizations (ICMJE, COPE, WAME), major publishers (Elsevier; Springer Nature/Nature; Wiley; Taylor & Francis; PLOS), a technical society (IEEE), and funders (NIH, NSF): (a) authorship is human; (b) the use of AI must be disclosed; and (c) accountability for accuracy, originality, and legality remains with authors, alongside confidentiality safeguards in editorial and peer-review processes. Landmark editorials helped set the tone early: large language models (LLMs) are not authors, and any use of them should be transparent (Nature Editorial, 2023; Thorp, 2023).

Beneath that agreement, I found practical differences that shape how authors actually comply: where to place the disclosure (Methods, Acknowledgments, or a dedicated section before References), how much detail is expected (tool, version, and—when relevant—prompts/parameters plus verification procedures), and how to handle AI-generated figures and AI-assisted code/data (often restricted or prohibited unless fully described as part of the methods) (WAME, 2023; Elsevier, 2025a, 2025b; Springer Nature, 2025; Taylor & Francis, 2025; PLOS, 2023–2024). In that context, the AI-Use-12 instrument I derived offers a concise, minimum checklist that aligns with current policies and is easy to implement in manuscripts and submission forms.

The policy convergence aligns with growing empirical evidence about risks and limits of generative AI. Studies show that LLMs can produce plausible but incorrect scientific prose, which reinforces the need for human verification and explicit disclosure (Májovský et al., 2023). Automated text detectors, meanwhile, have uneven performance; even OpenAI discontinued its classifier for low accuracy, and recent work cautions against relying on detectors as the sole basis for editorial decisions (OpenAI, 2023; Chemaya et al., 2024). There is also evidence of over-generalization in LLM-generated abstracts, a concern in fields where nuance and scope boundaries are critical (Peters & Chin-Yee, 2025). Altogether, these findings support a policy emphasis on traceability (tool, version, purpose, and prompts where relevant) and on editorial controls that keep human judgment at the center.

When AI is part of the study method rather than merely a writing aid, EQUATOR extensions—SPIRIT-AI, CONSORT-AI, and TRIPOD+AI—already demand technical transparency (model version, execution environment, error handling, generalizability). Those principles transfer naturally to AI-use disclosures in writing and analysis, offering a ready conceptual bridge across disciplines (Rivera et al., 2020; Liu et al., 2020; Collins et al., 2024).

Practical Implications

For authors. A short, consistent “AI use statement” covering the 12 elements in AI-Use-12 makes peer review smoother, reduces ambiguity, and documents human oversight. In practice, it helps to: (a) name the tool, version, and date of use; (b) specify the purpose and sections affected; (c) describe fact-checking and reference verification; and (d) report prompts/parameters in the supplement when AI affects results/figures/code (WAME, 2023; PLOS, 2023–2024; Elsevier, 2025b). Where journals restrict images/figures, confirm whether AI-generated graphics are inadmissible or permitted only with a fully described method (Springer Nature, 2025; Taylor & Francis, 2025; Elsevier, 2025a).

For editors. Making an AI-use disclosure section mandatory (e.g., a brief “AI use statement” in the manuscript or submission form) and aligning it with AI-Use-12 can improve consistency across journals. Helpful steps include: (a) providing templates; (b) clarifying policies on images/figures and AI-assisted code/data; (c) reiterating that AI is not an author; (d) enforcing confidentiality (no uploading manuscripts to non-approved AI services); and (e) not basing decisions solely on detectors but combining author clarifications, source verification, and peer review (COPE, 2023; NIH, 2023; NSF, 2023; Springer Nature, 2025).

Strengths and Limitations

This review has several strengths: reliance on primary, official sources (policies and institutional guidance), a documented search strategy consistent with PRISMA-S, and a usable output (AI-Use-12) with templates and examples. It also has limitations. First, as a scoping review, it maps and describes rather than quantifies effects. Second, policies change quickly; despite recording access dates, maintaining currency requires periodic updates. Third, much of the corpus

is grey literature; I verified official status and described quality with AACODS, but this is not a risk-of-bias assessment. Fourth, terminology varies across publishers, which required interpretive judgment and may introduce misclassification. Finally, AI-Use-12 is a derived instrument; while internally reviewed, it still lacks formal external validation (e.g., a Delphi panel or content validity index).

Future Directions

Several next steps appear useful. First, field-wide cross-sectional audits of “Instructions for Authors” and submission forms across large, representative journal samples could estimate adoption and maturity of AI policies. Second, formal validation of AI-Use-12 (Delphi, CVI, usability testing with editors and reviewers) would strengthen its acceptance. Third, research on editorial workflows could balance disclosure, traceability, and verification (e.g., reference audits) without imposing undue burden on authors or staff. Fourth, empirical studies could assess how disclosure affects editorial timelines, corrections/retractions, and reader/reviewer trust. In parallel, detection research might pivot from general classifiers toward provenance, metadata, and integrity checks for images and code, acknowledging the current limits of detectors (OpenAI, 2023; Chemaya et al., 2024).

CONCLUSION

Taken together, these findings support a pragmatic roadmap: institutionalize a standardized AI-use disclosure, aligned with AI-Use-12; prohibit AI authorship and protect confidentiality in peer review; and discourage detector-only decisions. Implemented consistently, these measures can improve transparency, enable sharper peer review, and bolster trust in the scientific record in the era of generative AI. For immediate adoption, the AI-Use-12 instrument is included in Appendix A (English) and Appendix B (Spanish).

Financing: This research was not funded by any entity or sponsor.

Conflict of Interest: The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

Approval of the Institutional Board for the Protection of Human Subjects in Research: Not required.

Review Process: This study has been reviewed by external peers in double-blind mode.

Statement of the use of Generative Artificial Intelligence: Generative artificial intelligence (ChatGPT, OpenAI) was used to assist in the preliminary drafting of the abstract and proofreading of the manuscript. All generated content was carefully reviewed and edited by the authors, who take full responsibility for the manuscript.

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Appendix A.

AI Use Disclosure for Research Articles (AI-Use-12)

Manuscript: _____

Journal: _____

Responsible author: _____

Date: _____

#	AI-Use-12 item	Checked	Details (complete where applicable)
1	Tool(s) and provider(s) are disclosed.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	_____
2	Version/model and date of use are recorded.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	_____
3	Purpose of AI use is specified.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	_____
4	Manuscript sections affected are identified.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	_____
5	Prompts/parameters are documented when AI affects results/figures/code (refer to appendix).	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A Appendix: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	_____
6	Human oversight of AI-assisted content is indicated.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	_____
7	Fact-checking and reference verification are described.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	_____
8	Images/figures generated or edited with AI are disclosed or not used.	<input type="checkbox"/> Disclosed <input type="checkbox"/> Not used <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	_____
9	Code and/or synthetic data generated with AI are disclosed or not used.	<input type="checkbox"/> Disclosed <input type="checkbox"/> Not used <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	_____

#	AI-Use-12 item	Checked	Details (complete where applicable)
10	Privacy/confidentiality: no upload of sensitive data or non-public manuscripts to non-approved services.	<input type="checkbox"/> Compliant <input type="checkbox"/> Not compliant <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	_____
11	Intellectual property/licensing for AI-assisted material is addressed.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	_____
12	Compliance with the journal's policy and no AI use in peer review are stated.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	_____

Final checklist review: Complete Incomplete

Proposed model for presenting the AI Use Statement:

AI Use Statement. I used [tool(s); version/model; provider; date(s) of use] for [purpose; e.g., language editing, structural reorganization, support for tables] in [affected sections]. I reviewed and edited all AI-assisted content, verified facts and references, and accept full responsibility for the manuscript. No AI tools were used to generate results, analyses, or conclusions. No sensitive data or unpublished manuscripts were uploaded to non-approved third-party services. This statement complies with [Journal name] policy. When AI affected results/figures/code, prompts and parameters are documented in the supplementary material.

Appendix B.

Declaración de Uso de IA para Artículos de Investigación (AI-Use-12)

Manuscrito: _____

Revista: _____

Autor responsable: _____

Fecha: _____

#	Ítem AI-Use-12	Marcado	Detalle (completar donde aplique)
1	Herramienta(s) y proveedor(es) declarados.	<input type="checkbox"/> Sí <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	_____
2	Versión/modelo y fecha de uso registradas.	<input type="checkbox"/> Sí <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	_____
3	Propósito del uso de IA especificado.	<input type="checkbox"/> Sí <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	_____
4	Secciones del manuscrito afectadas identificadas.	<input type="checkbox"/> Sí <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	_____
5	Prompts/parámetros documentados cuando la IA afecta resultados/figuras/código (remitir a anexo).	<input type="checkbox"/> Sí <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A Anexo: <input type="checkbox"/> Sí <input type="checkbox"/> No	_____
6	Supervisión humana del contenido asistido indicada.	<input type="checkbox"/> Sí <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	_____
7	Verificación de hechos y referencias descrita.	<input type="checkbox"/> Sí <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	_____
8	Imágenes/figuras generadas o alteradas por IA declaradas o no utilizadas.	<input type="checkbox"/> Declaradas <input type="checkbox"/> No usadas <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	_____
9	Código y/o datos sintéticos generados por IA declarados o no utilizados.	<input type="checkbox"/> Declarados <input type="checkbox"/> No usados <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	_____

#	Ítem AI-Use-12	Marcado	Detalle (completar donde aplique)
10	Privacidad/confidencialidad: sin carga de datos sensibles/manuscritos no públicos a servicios no aprobados.	<input type="checkbox"/> Cumple <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	_____
11	Propiedad intelectual/licencias del material asistido por IA abordadas.	<input type="checkbox"/> Sí <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	_____
12	Cumplimiento de la política de la revista y no uso de IA en peer review indicado.	<input type="checkbox"/> Sí <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	_____

Revisión final del checklist: Completo Incompleto

Modelo propuesto para presentar la Declaración de uso de IA:

Declaración de uso de inteligencia artificial. Utilicé [herramienta(s); versión/modelo; proveedor; fecha(s) de uso] para [propósito: p. ej., edición lingüística, reorganización de secciones, apoyo en tablas] en [secciones afectadas]. Revisé y edité todo el contenido asistido, verifiqué hechos y referencias, y asumo la responsabilidad total del manuscrito. No utilicé herramientas de IA para generar resultados, análisis o conclusiones. No cargué datos sensibles ni manuscritos inéditos a servicios de terceros no aprobados. Esta declaración cumple la política de [Nombre de la revista]. Cuando la IA afectó resultados/figuras/código, los prompts y parámetros se documentan en el material suplementario.