



The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

MEDIA QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Whom should I contact to find out more about the *Journal*, if I have a question about articles published in the *Journal*, or if I have a question about my subscription?

Contact our Media Relations department at mediasupport@nejm.org or at (781) 434-7847 (international media, please call 001+ (781) 434-7847.)

When can I access the new issue of the *Journal*?

The *Journal* is published weekly (52 times per year), with a Thursday publication date. Each week's content is made available online at www.nejm.org at 5 p.m. Eastern time each Wednesday. Advance-access subscribers may access the *Journal* online the Friday prior to publication and can receive a print copy in advance as well.

How do I become a media subscriber? What are the benefits?

Members of the media may apply for complimentary access to the *Journal*'s content at <http://media.nejm.org/subscriptions/ApplyInfo.aspx>. We offer two levels of access to journalists: advance or regular.

Advance Access: Media subscribers meeting daily or weekly deadlines who agree to abide by the *Journal*'s embargo policy have access to all content in the *Journal* over the Internet and/or receive it by first-class mail prior to publication. The online version is available to advance-access subscribers the Friday before the publication date. At this time, advance-access subscribers also receive contact information for the authors whose articles are published in that issue. The contact information helps journalists interview authors in advance of publication.

Regular Access: Media subscribers meeting less-frequent deadlines may apply for regular access, which provides complimentary online access to the full-text of published content, archived on our website back to 1993.

What kind of information can I get online?

The *Journal* is available at www.nejm.org. This site includes the current issue, past issues dating back to 1993, and information on items such as reprints, medical meetings and career opportunities, information for authors and reviewers, and information about the *Journal*. Advance-access subscribers can use the Media Center site (<http://media.nejm.org>) to access the upcoming issue of the *Journal* online the Friday prior to publication.

How can I speak with the authors of articles published in the *Journal*?

A list of authors and their contact information is available on the Media Center site on the Friday before the publication date.

Where can I find background information about the *Journal* — the publication, its processes, etc.?

This information is available in the *Journal*'s press kit, at <http://media.nejm.org/misc/presskit.aspx>. To request a hard-copy press kit, contact Media Relations.

What is the Ingelfinger Rule?

The Ingelfinger Rule was instituted by the *Journal* in 1969 for two reasons: to allow time for the independent peer review of scientific findings before public dissemination and to protect the originality of content. The rule asks author-researchers not to release the details of their findings to the mass media before their work can undergo peer review and be published. Most medical journals have similar rules in place.

What is the *Journal*'s embargo policy?

Like most medical journals, the *Journal* employs an embargo system. Copies are delivered or made available over the Internet the Friday before publication to journalists who agree not to publish stories before Wednesday at 5 p.m. Eastern time.

There are two fundamental reasons for our embargo: it allows the media time to report accurately on complex and important new research findings, and it allows subscribers to read and understand the full reports in the *Journal* before media reports prompt patients to call with questions.

Occasionally, the *Journal* designates an article for “early release” or “Online First” and posts it on the Internet prior to the print publication date. Once an article is posted at www.nejm.org, the embargo is lifted.

What is an “early release” or “Online First” article?

The *Journal* publishes an “early release” or “Online First” article by posting it on the Internet prior to the scheduled hard-copy publication date. Media subscribers are often notified about these articles a day or two before they are posted.

What happens if there is an embargo break?

The editor-in-chief or his designate decides whether the embargo should be lifted. If so, a notice is sent to all media subscribers. An embargo break by a media subscriber puts that individual's subscription at risk and could threaten the subscriptions of other reporters at that media outlet.

What is the relationship between the *Journal* and the Massachusetts Medical Society?

The *Journal* is owned by the Massachusetts Medical Society, which is a not-for-profit membership association for physicians in Massachusetts. The *Journal* has complete editorial independence. *Journal* editors meet regularly with the medical society's 11-member Committee on Publications to discuss fiscal, operational, and personnel issues.