

# 2024 NIH Public Access Policy Q&A and How the Library Can Help YOU with NIH-Award Compliance



The new implementation timeline for the 2024 NIH Public Access Policy has been accelerated by the new NIH Director from December 31, 2025 to **July 1, 2025**. Compliance is essential to maintain access to NIH funding opportunities.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) first passed its [Public Access Policy](#) on April 7, 2008, in order to advance science and improve human health. To help comply with this revised Public Access Policy, Welch Medical Library has highlighted questions and answers from the [NIH Public Access Policy library guide FAQ](#).

## 2024 NIH Public Access Policy Q&A:

### 1. ***What is the scope and applicability of the 2024 NIH Public Access Policy?***

The NIH Public Access Policy applies to any Author Accepted Manuscript<sup>1</sup> accepted for publication in a journal, on or after July 1, 2025, that is the result of funding by NIH in whole or in part through:

- A grant or cooperative agreement, including training grants,
- A contract,
- An Other Transaction,
- NIH intramural research, or
- The official work of an NIH employee.

The NIH Public Access Policy applies regardless of whether the NIH-funded principal investigator or project director is an author, and regardless of whether non-NIH funds contributed to developing or writing the Author Accepted Manuscript. Upon the July 1, 2025, this Policy replaces the 2008 NIH Public Access Policy.

### 2. ***What is the new implementation timeline for the 2024 Public Access Policy?***

The 2024 Public Access Policy is effective for manuscripts accepted for publication on or after July 1, 2025. (Note, the original implementation date of December 31, 2025, was [accelerated by the new NIH Director](#).) Until then, NIH's current (2008) Public Access Policy remains in effect.

### 3. ***What's new about the 2024 NIH Public Access Policy (i.e., different from the 2008 NIH Public Access Policy currently in effect until June 30, 2025)?***

The [2024 NIH Public Access Policy for Publications](#) requires scientists to submit the **Author Accepted Manuscript (AAM)** that arise from NIH funds and accepted for publication on or after July 01, 2025, to the digital repository PubMed Central (PMC) immediately upon acceptance for publication with a **zero embargo period and upon official Date of Publication**. Embargos are no longer acceptable.

---

<sup>1</sup> The AAM or post-print is a version of the peer-reviewed manuscript that is exactly like the Final Published Article minus the publisher copy-editing and formatting.

4. **What key actions do you need to take to comply with the 2024 NIH Public Access Policy?**

**First, before paper submission to a publisher, you must confirm that publisher policies allow you to comply with the NIH Policy.** Journal policies for manuscripts being prepared for submission should be reviewed to confirm that authors have the right to comply with the 2024 NIH Public Access Policy. It is **critical** to reach out to the journal and advise them that works accepted for publication on or after July 01, 2025, are not subject to an embargo period—the AAM must be made available in PubMed Central (PMC) upon official date of publication.

If the publisher does not agree to submit the AAM to PMC through [NIH Manuscript Submission System \(NIHMS\)](#), then YOU must manage submission of the Author Accepted Manuscript to the [NIH Manuscript Submission System \(NIHMS\)](#) **upon acceptance of publication** (i.e., informally, that window of time between AAM acceptance and the final published article publication) to prepare for posting to PubMed Central (PMC). The [NIHMS submission process is the same as the 2008 NIH Public Access Policy](#), and has not changed.

**Second, it is important to include the NIH Rights Statement** in manuscripts submitted for peer review. This can be included with the funding/grant acknowledgement section. The [NIH Rights Statement](#) serves to inform publishers and journals that the work is subject to the NIH Public Access Policy and that NIH, as the funding agency, has the right to make the Author Accepted Manuscript (AAM) publicly available in PubMed Central upon the Official Date of Publication. Sample language of a good statement would sound like this:

*“This manuscript is the result of funding in whole or in part by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). It is subject to the NIH Public Access Policy. Through acceptance of this federal funding, NIH has been given a right to make this manuscript publicly available in PubMed Central upon the Official Date of Publication, as defined by NIH.”*

**Third, when an Author Accepted Manuscript is submitted to NIH, you must agree to a standard license that mirrors that of the Government Use License** at [2 CFR 200.315](#), or its successor regulation, explicitly granting NIH the right to make the Author Accepted Manuscript (AAM) publicly available through PubMed Central (PMC) without embargo upon the Official Date of Publication.

5. **How will compliance be demonstrated?**

According to the 2024 NIH Public Access Policy, a PMCID (PubMed Central Identification Number) is required to demonstrate compliance. This requirement applies to all NIH-funded peer-reviewed articles accepted for publication on or after July 1, 2025. The updated policy mandates that the author's accepted manuscript (AAM) be submitted to PubMed Central repository (PMC) immediately upon **acceptance for publication** (i.e., informally, that window of time between AAM acceptance and the final published article publication), effectively removing the previous 12-month embargo period.

The Welch Medical Library can support journal selection and guide you through the NIHMS submission process. For more information on the 2024 NIH Public Access Policy, please feel free to reach out to Scholarly Communications Librarian, Nancy Shin, at [nshin4@jhu.edu](mailto:nshin4@jhu.edu).