

How Paperpal Preflight Lowered Initial Manuscript Rejection Rates For Medicine, a leading Wolters Kluwer journal



The Goal

Medicine implemented Paperpal Preflight in their submission workflow with the aim to improve the quality of submissions received by them. After seven months of usage, the data was studied to see the impact of Paperpal Preflight on the initial rejection rates of manuscripts. A reduced rejection rate would imply that Preflight was efficient in spotting language errors like issues with grammar, syntax, spelling, tone, consistency as well as technical errors like inconsistent formatting, missing declarations, non-adherence to word counts, etc.

The Process

The study examined original research manuscripts submitted to the journal over a seven-month period. To enhance manuscript quality, authors were advised to use Paperpal Preflight for manuscript checks. The tool provides two service tiers - a complimentary basic report identifying areas for improvement and a comprehensive premium check that provides detailed suggestions for correction. The selection of the service level was at the discretion of the author.

The Outcome

Of the 7904 manuscripts submitted, there were three groups: no precheck, basic precheck, and premium precheck. A considerable decrease in the initial rejection rates was noticed when the manuscripts were subjected to Paperpal Preflight:

Precheck Status	Submissions	Initial Rejections (n)	Initial Rejection (%)
None	6062	2073	34.2%
Basic	1661	333	20.1%
Premium	181	13	7.3%

Key insights:

- Manuscripts that were submitted without running Preflight saw an initial rejection rate of 34.2%. This means that 1 out of every 3 manuscripts was rejected in the initial stages.
- Manuscripts that went through the basic Preflight checks saw a significantly reduced rate of initial rejection at 20.1%. Out of every 5 manuscripts, 1 was rejected. Therefore, using just the basic version of Preflight improved manuscript quality and reduced the time spent by editors on low quality papers.
- Manuscripts that were submitted using Preflight's premium editing saw a 7.3% rate of initial rejection. One out of every 14 manuscripts were rejected.
- We can clearly see that using the premium version of Preflight significantly improves manuscript quality, allows editors time to be spent focused on better manuscripts and reduces the overall noise in the system leading to faster turnaround times and better-quality publication.

* Note: The initial rejection rates mentioned are the ones prior to peer review and do not necessarily reflect what happens to the manuscripts after peer review since that decision is based on largely clinical assessments of the content.

The Conclusion

Manuscripts that used Paperpal Preflight witnessed 15.5% lower initial rejection rate than those submitted without pre-checking.

Using AI-powered Paperpal Preflight helped authors identify and correct common submission errors, streamlining the process for both authors and journals, and enhancing the overall quality of submissions.

If you are interested in implementing Preflight into your workflow, please write to hello@paperpal.com