

Coalition for Open Access Publishing of Public Health in Africa (COPPHA) Peer Reviewing Course

WEEK 4

Performing a Peer Review Assignment

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COPPHA PEER REVIEW COURSE ZOOM SESSION

WEEK 04

SESSION TOPIC

PERFORMING A PEER REVIEW ASSIGNMENT

#COPPHApeerreview



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Outline

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Overview of the Peer Review Assignment

- ▶ Today's Session on **Performing a Peer Review Assignment** builds on the previous session, where we discussed “**How to Conduct an Effective Peer Review: Key Steps and Best Practices.**”
- ▶ **The purpose** of the Peer Review Assignment is to help you practice your reviewing skills by applying what you have learned over the past few weeks (Weeks 1-3).
- ▶ The Peer Review Assignment Section will run from **October 28 to November 10, 2024.**
- ▶ For the assignment, you will review a selected preprint using the **COPPHA Peer Review Proforma.**
- ▶ The deadline for assignment submission is **November 15, 2024.**

Description of Selected Preprint

▶ Preprint Title:

Quality of Counselling, Exposure to Vaccination Messages, and Caregivers' Knowledge on the Uptake of Penta Vaccine in Six Northern Nigerian States

▶ Preprint Server:

This preprint was recently published on the **medRxiv**.

▶ DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1101/2024.08.09.24311716>

▶ Study Focus:

Despite the national immunization program in **Nigeria**, **Pentavalent 3 (Penta-3) vaccine** coverage remains low, especially in the **Northern region**. The study examines the uptake of the (Penta-3) vaccine as a measure of child vaccination coverage in Nigeria.

▶ Objective of the Study:

The study seeks to identify factors that can improve vaccination rates and overcome barriers in Nigeria's immunization program by investigating the impact of counseling quality, exposure to vaccination messages on the uptake of the Penta vaccine in children aged 2-24 months across six Northern Nigerian states, and caregivers' knowledge on child vaccination.

Description of a Peer Review Proforma

▶ What is the Peer Review Proforma?

A *peer review proforma* is a structured and standardized document or form used by reviewers to evaluate the quality and merit of scholarly work. It provides a clear framework with specific guiding questions for reviewers to assess critical aspects of a research manuscript like **abstract, background, methodology, results, discussion, conclusion**, and overall contribution to the field of study.

- ▶ The Peer Review Proforma has been provided to guide you through the review of the selected preprint.
- ▶ The proforma will help structure your review of the preprint and address key areas:
 - Summarizing the paper
 - Identifying strengths and weaknesses
 - Providing constructive feedback for improvement



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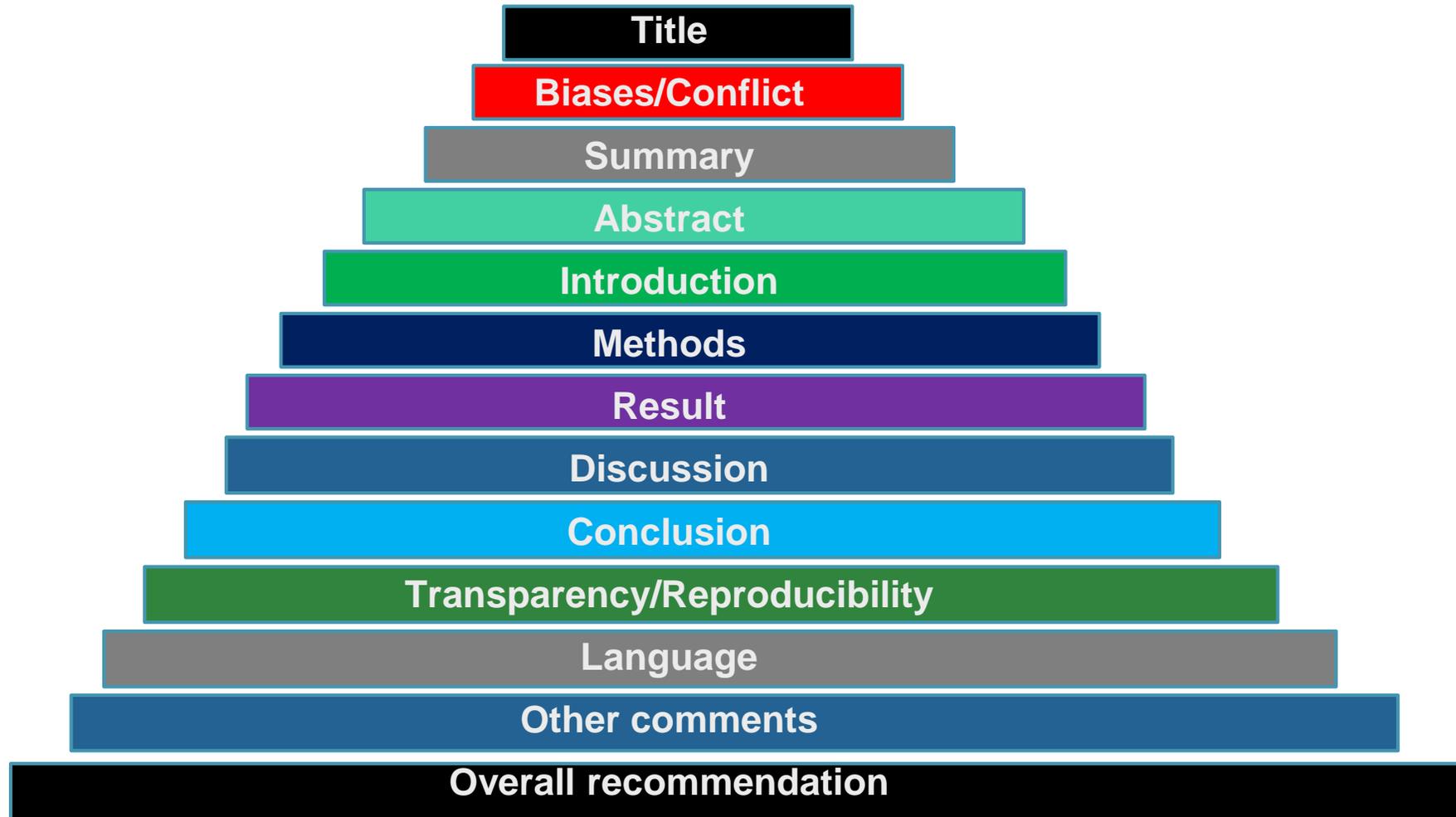
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Structure of the COPPHA Peer Review Proforma



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Assignment Submission

- ▶ Download the **COPPHA Peer Review Proforma** from the course platform.
- ▶ Provide answers to the questions in the proforma based on your review of the preprint.
- ▶ Save the file and upload it to the assignment submission section on the course platform.
- ▶ A **dedicated forum** is also available for any questions regarding the assignment. Facilitators will respond to your questions on the forum.



Action

Download the **Proforma** from the course platform, answer the questions, and submit it by **November 15, 2024**.



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Key Tips for Completing the Assignment

The purpose of reviewing the preprint is to offer helpful feedback that the authors can use in improving their work:

- ▶ Familiarize yourself with the questions in the **COPPHA Peer Review Proforma**.
- ▶ **Take notes** as you read through the preprint, and use those notes to complete the Proforma.
- ▶ Be mindful of **personal bias** or **preconceptions** that could affect your judgment.
- ▶ Focus on providing **constructive** and **actionable** feedback.
- ▶ Ensure feedback is **respectful**, **clear**, and **evidence-based**.

Peer Review Assignment Model Answer

- ▶ **Purpose of the Model Answer:**
The Model Answer is provided to guide participants on how to approach each question in the COPPHA Peer Review Proforma, review research manuscripts or preprints, and learn how to contribute effectively to the peer review process.
- ▶ After submitting your assignment, you will gain access to the Model Answer. The resource will provide you with **three reviewer perspectives (Reviewer 1, 2, 3)**, showing how different reviewers can approach the same preprint with varying viewpoints.
- ▶ The model answer will give you further insight how reviewers structure their reviews and how feedback is synthesized.
- ▶ The model includes **notes on bias and conflict of interest** to guide you on how to remain objective in your reviews.
- ▶ The model also include **notes on Constructive and Negative Feedback.**



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Gaining a Certificate

- ▶ To earn a certificate, you must complete all course tasks, including:
 - Downloading key resources
 - Posting reflections in the forum
 - Submitting your peer review assignment
- ▶ Once all activities are **marked complete**, you will be awarded your certificate.

Breakout Session



- ▶ The breakout room discussion will last **30 minutes**.
- ▶ Each facilitator will guide their group on how to use and answer the questions in the Peer Review Proforma.
- ▶ Ask any questions you have about completing the peer review assignment

Breakout Room Etiquette

- ▶ Stay on topic
- ▶ Feel free to ask for clarification or help with the assignment.
- ▶ Mute when not speaking and avoid interrupting when someone is speaking.
- ▶ Share your thoughts in a respectful and polite manner.
- ▶ The facilitators reserve the right to remove participants who exhibit disruptive behavior.



Q & A

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Join the COPPHA Community

- ▶ **WhatsApp Group:** Stay connected for course updates and reminders.
- ▶ **Support:** If you have any questions, email us at coppha@wacren.net.

We're Here to Help: Our goal is to support you throughout your learning experience!

