Awardee Frequently Asked Questions: Public Access

My research funder requires me to deposit my paper in PubMed Central. How do I do this?
Detailed instructions are contained in the Awardee Compliance Guide, available on
http://www.healthra.org/resources.publicaccess.html . Many publications will automatically
deposit articles in PubMed Central. For a list of such publications, see
http://www.healthra.org/resources.publicaccess.html . If the journal in which you plan to publish
your article does not appear on this list, you must reserve the rights to make your article available
in PubMed Central within 12 months of its publication date, and then deposit the accepted
manuscript via the NIH Manuscript Submission System (http://www.nihms.nih.gov). Most journal
publishers are accustomed to similar requirements of other funders. For an introduction to
copyright for authors, see http://www.arl.org/sparc/author/copyrightintro.shtml as well as the
SPARC/Science Commons Author Addendum at this link:
http://www.arl.org/sparc/author/addendum.shtml .

Depositing my manuscript sounds like a hassle. Why do I have to do this?
First, the hassle is minimal. Even if the journal in which you are publishing is not among those that
may handle your PubMed Central deposit on your behalf, direct submission via the **NIH
Manuscript Submission system** (http://www.nihms.nih.gov) usually takes less than 10 minutes.
*Please note that you must log into the NIH Manuscript Submission system using your Gmail account in
order to bring up your grant numbers from HRA member organizations, to which your manuscript
should be linked.* The inconvenience of depositing manuscripts to PubMed Central is minimal
compared to the benefits.   Your funding organization's public access policy will increase exposure
to your article, encourage follow-on research (and citations), and make your work available to
practitioners, educators, and the general populace worldwide. This will help advance
understanding and accelerate further research. *For a link to a list of journals that automatically
deposit all articles to PubMedCentral, see http://www.healthra.org/resources.publicaccess.html .*

What do I do if the publisher refuses to accept modification of its standard author agreement?
You should not sign any publication agreement related to articles or other publications resulting
from the research funded by your funding organization unless you are certain that the agreement
complies with this policy. The same advice applies to electronic click-through agreements that may
be part of the journal's manuscript submission system. In the unlikely event the publisher balks at
accepting a modification of its standard agreement, you should reiterate the conditions of your
funding and remind them that the requirement is similar to that of the National Institutes of Health,
Howard Hughes Medical Institute, and other funders. There is no evidence of financial or other
material harm to publishers as a result of embargoed free public access to research articles.
Authors should work with the publisher before any rights are transferred, to ensure that all
conditions of your funding organization's public access policy can be met.

My paper is based on research only partially funded by this funding organization. Does the access policy still apply?
Yes, the access policy applies to any manuscript that arises from any amount of direct funding from your funding organization that is a member of the Health Research Alliance.

What is the difference between a final peer-reviewed manuscript and final published article? Which version of my paper should I submit?
The final peer-reviewed manuscript before final formatting and typesetting is sometimes called a postprint. The postprint version is similar but not identical to the final published version of the article, which is the authoritative copy. Your funding organization's public access policy requires grant recipients to submit the postprint (the final, peer-reviewed manuscript that includes all modifications from the publishing and peer review process) to PubMed Central.

I plan to publish in an Open Access journal. Do I still need to submit my paper to PubMed Central?
Yes, unless the journal has an agreement to deposit its papers in PubMed Central (see http://www.healthra.org/resources.publicaccess.html for a link to an updated list of these journals). Not all Open Access journals have agreements with PubMed Central.

My article is listed in PubMed. Why do I need to deposit it in PubMed Central?
PubMed is a citation database, while PubMed Central is a free digital database of full-text scientific literature in the biomedical and life sciences. Your funding organization's policy requires that the full text of publications resulting from your award be made available in PubMed Central as a condition of your grant. The only way to comply with that requirement is to reserve the necessary rights under copyright and to deposit the publication as outlined in the instructions provided by your funding organization.

How do I demonstrate compliance to the research funder?
First, you should acknowledge the support provided by your funding organization by including the organization's name and the grant number in every article arising from such funding. Your funder may require that you provide the final Publication Agreement as part of routine progress reporting, as well as the PMC ID to locate your article on PubMed Central. You can also demonstrate compliance with your funding organization's public access policy by providing the organization – at the earliest possible convenience – with the PubMed Central (PMC) reference number (e.g., PMC234567) for each paper that falls under the policy. If the PubMed Central reference number (PMCID) is not available because the paper has not been posted to PubMed Central yet, you can use the NIH Manuscript Submission reference number (e.g., NIHMS97531).

Why do I need to have a Gmail account?
Gmail (Google) and NIH's grant management system use a shared authentication technology. Logging in with your Gmail account helps HRA and NIH assure that grants are linked to the correct researcher. If you do not have a Gmail account, it is easy to create one at https://accounts.google.com/SignUp?service=mail .

What if I can't find my grant when I log into the NIH Manuscript Submission System?
In order to find your grants listed when you log into PubMedCentral, you must have already logged into gHRAsp and linked your grants to your researcher profile. These grants will be available in PubMedCentral within 24 hours of saving to your profile. If you have linked your grants to your researcher profile in gHRAsp and at least 24 hours have elapsed, please email support@ghrasp.org .

Is there a time delay between when I add a grant to my gHRAsp profile and when it's available in in the NIH Manuscript Submission System?
Yes – data from gHRAsp is transmitted to the National Library of Medicine each weeknight. Please allow 24 hours for your linked grants to be available in PubMedCentral.

Will the details of my grant be shared?
The only information from HRA/gHRAsp that will be transmitted to PubMedCentral is the following: Your name, your email, the name of your funder, your project title, and your funder's unique grant ID number.