

Listy klinické logopedie

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Code of Ethics for Research Studies Involving Human Subjects

(Abbreviated and adapted version of the text published on Elsevier.com. (2025). [online] Available from: <https://www.elsevier.com/about/policies-and-standards/patient-consent#1-special-considerations> [cited 2025-6-15]. The text is supplemented with comments from members of the Editorial Board of Listy klinické logopedie (hereinafter as "LKL" or "the Journal").)

If the institution where research data on human subjects originated has an established Ethics Committee for this type of research, the consent of such a committee for the submitted research must exist, and this consent must be made available to the editorial office of LKL upon request. If such consent does not exist (e.g., research data was obtained in an outpatient healthcare facility that does not have such a committee established), the author of the research is obliged to adhere to the principles of the [European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity](#) and the [WMA Declaration of Helsinki - Ethical Principles for Medical Research Involving Human Subjects](#) throughout the data acquisition period. By submitting the article to the Journal's online editorial system, the author attests that the conduct of their research work is in accordance with the aforementioned documents.

Before publishing a research study involving human subjects, it is also necessary to obtain the consent of these subjects, in a manner consistent with the legal norms listed below. By submitting their study to the online editorial system of LKL, the authors of the study attest that they have familiarized themselves with the text of the Code of Ethics below and that its principles were respected during the creation of the submitted professional text. Furthermore, they attest that their study was conducted based on the valid legislation of the country in which the study was carried out, that these laws are in accordance with [Regulation \(EU\) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council](#) on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data, and that every human subject (or their legal representative or other person with legal authority) appearing in any video, recording, photograph, image, illustration, or report about them, was informed in advance and gave their written consent to:

- the fact that such photographs, video, recording, image, illustration, or report were taken
- all purposes for which they were used, including making them available to readers of LKL through a professional article.

The subject concerned should also be informed that individual images, data, etc. from such an article may be traceable through internet search engines and artificial intelligence tools. If this consent is subject to any conditions (for example, measures preventing personal identification of the person concerned), LKL must

be informed in writing of all such conditions. Human subjects who have given this consent must be informed that it cannot be revoked after the material (article) has been published.

Written consents must be retained by the author, and copies of the consents or proof of their obtaining must be provided to the editorial office of LKL upon request, but should not be sent to the Journal's editorial office. The form of written consent must meet all requirements of the applicable personal data and privacy protection laws from the aforementioned legal norm.

Special attention should be paid to obtaining fully informed consent without coercion, especially concerning children, persons with cognitive or intellectual disabilities, persons with a visible face, mentions of names or other personal data, or other vulnerable groups or individuals. In the case of a child, if parents or legal guardians do not agree to the use of the child's images, consent should be considered not granted, and these images should not be used. Even if consent has been obtained, care must be taken to ensure that the depiction and titling of the individual concerned is respectful and cannot be perceived as disparaging. Special attention should be paid to cases where extensive media attention is likely, so that the individual concerned is properly informed in advance of the potential extent of publicity and can make an informed decision about participation.

Patient and research participant names, initials, hospital or social identification numbers, dates of birth, or other personal or identifiable data should not be used. Images of patients or research participants should not be used unless the information is essential for scientific purposes and explicit permission has been obtained as part of the consent. Even if consent has been given, identifiable details should not be published unless necessary. If identifying characteristics are altered to protect anonymity, authors should provide assurances that such alterations do not distort scientific meaning. Formal consent is not necessary for the use of completely anonymized images from which an individual cannot be identified – for example, X-rays, ultrasound images, etc. provided they contain no identifying features and are not accompanied by text that could identify the individual. Even if formal consent is not necessary, it is customary and a matter of good practice for the author to inform the patient that their images will be used in a professional article (this does not apply to professional articles about cases where informed consent is always required, even for anonymized images). For case studies, even if details that could identify the patient or allow them to recognize themselves should be removed, complete anonymity may not always be possible, and therefore informed consent should be obtained for all case studies. This also applies to reports on deceased persons, where consent should be obtained from designated representatives unless provided directly by the individual. If consent has not been obtained, it is not sufficient to anonymize a photograph merely by using black bars over the eyes or blurring the face of the person concerned.