

# Authorship of Papers

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Epidemiology S.O.P. No.: 8  
Version 2

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## Introduction

The ICH GCP (International Conference on Harmonisation of Good Clinical Practice) states that “systems with procedures that assure the quality of every aspect of the trial should be implemented”. This SOP details the procedure to be used for authorship of papers stemming from data obtained through the SDRN Epidemiology Studies Group

## Background

The SDRN Epidemiology Group supports epidemiological analyses using both SCI-DC and other national databases. The policy on authorship tries to reflect and acknowledge the wide contribution of many individuals to the development of data held in the SCI-dc data sets. This includes extensive work in data collection, quality, and provisioning as well as the development of shared methods and metadata.

## Procedure

1. Authorship of papers on behalf of the epidemiology group will take the form of a list of named authors followed by group authorship “on behalf of the SDRN Epidemiology Group” i.e. author 1 , author 2, author 3, “ on behalf of the SDRN Epidemiology Group”.
2. For the purposes of publication the “SDRN Epidemiology Group” will include all members of the group along with members of the SDRN Linkage subgroup. All of these individuals who are not also named authors should be listed in the acknowledgement section. National Library of Medicine will usually index these names from the acknowledgement to the group authorship
3. Papers will be circulated to all members of the epidemiology group and data linkage subgroup prior to submission for consideration of issues around authorship and comments on the manuscript. A deadline for responses will be given. Reflecting the complexity of the data sets and work it has taken to develop these data sets it is expected that many members of the group will appropriately be authors on SDRN publications. Where a member of the epidemiology group feels that they should be a named author this should be indicated to the manuscript’s senior author when comments are returned.
4. Named authorship (that is authorship beyond inclusion within the group) will follow the ICMJE recommendations on authorship ([http://www.icmje.org/ethical\\_1author.html](http://www.icmje.org/ethical_1author.html)). In brief, this suggests that "Authorship credit should be based on 1) substantial contributions to conception and design, acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data; 2) drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content; and 3) final approval of the version to be published. Authors should meet conditions 1, 2, and 3.
5. All papers will also be circulated to a SDRN Epidemiology Group meeting for approval before submission.

6. The researcher should also acknowledge the funding body and assistance of the organisation with suggested form
  - i) “These data are available for analysis by members of the Scottish Diabetes Research Network (SDRN) thanks to the hard work and dedication of NHS staff across Scotland who enter the data and people and organisations (the Scottish Care Information -Diabetes Collaboration [SCI-DC] Steering Group, the Scottish Diabetes Group, the Scottish Diabetes Survey Group, the managed clinical network managers and staff in each Health Board) involved in setting up, maintaining and overseeing SCI-DC. The SDRN receives core support from the Chief Scientist’s Office at the Scottish Government Health Department.” along with acknowledgement of other appropriate funders for example the Scottish Health Informatics Programme.
  - ii) “This work was supported by the Wellcome Trust through the Scottish Health Informatics Programme (SHIP) Grant (Ref WT086113). SHIP is a collaboration between the Universities of Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow and St Andrews and the Information Services Division of NHS Scotland.” and may be asked put in a disclaimer of sort that suggests.
  - iii) “ however, this study does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the funding body nor all members of the SDRN Epidemiology Group” .