

Publishing case studies

How many cases are included in the data set?

One or two cases are not considered human subjects research and do not require COMIRB review.

Three or more: A case series is considered human subjects research and requires COMIRB review before research begins.

Will I need to obtain permission from the patient?

Patient identifiers should not be included in published case studies, and for that reason written permission from the patient is usually not required. However, you should obtain the patient's permission if you will be publishing images or other information that might indirectly identify them. Also, some journals require an attestation from the author that the patient has provided permission. To obtain permission, use your institution's authorization form.

- [UCD-AMC authorization](#)

My journal editor requires IRB approval for a single case study

Although a single case study does not require COMIRB review, we can provide an IRB review if a journal or conference requires it, either before or after the project has been completed.

My journal editor requires IRB approval for a case series

Your editor is correct. However, case series studies conducted without COMIRB approval are not eligible for post-hoc IRB review.