

Delegation of peer review responsibilities

Cochrane recognizes the need for training and mentoring for early career researchers, and the delegation of peer review responsibilities to junior staff members is therefore permitted under certain circumstances. For example, when the junior staff member is a subject expert and the experience is used as a training/mentoring exercise. The invited peer reviewer must request permission from the CRG, or the DTA Editorial Team if appropriate, to delegate their responsibilities, and must provide the full name and contact details (including position and institutional email address) for the junior staff member so that they can be acknowledged appropriately. The invited peer reviewer must sign-off on, and take responsibility for, the final peer review report. Both the original peer reviewer and the delegated peer reviewer must return the "Potential conflicts of interest" and the "Permissions" statements from the peer review checklist; they may both be acknowledged in the permitted ways for their contributions to the peer review report.

Note that the CRG and DTA Editorial teams are under no obligation to grant permission to delegate peer review responsibilities.