

7th December, 2023; Trial Management Group meeting

Authorship criteria for STEPCARE papers

The Trial Management Group will decide about authorships, guided by the following principles:

Basic principle:

The International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) recommends that authorship be based on the following 4 criteria:

- 1) Substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work; or the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data for the work; AND
- 2) Drafting the work or reviewing it critically for important intellectual content; AND
- 3) Final approval of the version to be published; AND
- 4) Agreement to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

Provided that the investigator meets the ICMJE criteria, the opportunity to participate in the author group will be offered according to the following principles:

I) The three main research articles, reporting the main results of the three trials

Participation in the author group will be offered to the members of the Trial Management Group and Trial research fellows (for the paper the fellow is mostly connected with).

In addition, Site investigators will be offered the opportunity for authorship based on the number of patients recruited in the main trial:

- 15 patients: one authorship, i.e. one name in one of the three papers
- 30 patients: two authorships, i.e. one name in two of the three papers or one name in one paper and another name in one paper
- 45 patients: three authorships, i.e. one name in all three papers or totally three names, one in each paper
- 75 patients: four authorships, i.e. one name in all three papers and another name in one paper, or totally four names with one authorship for each
- 105 patients: five authorships, i.e. one name in all three papers and another name in two papers, or totally five names with one authorship for each
- 135 patients or more: six authorships, i.e. two names in all three papers, or totally six names with one authorship for each
- sites recruiting even more patients will be granted an opportunity for extra authorships

II) Protocol papers

The Trial Management Group, Trial research fellows (for the paper the fellow is mostly connected with), National Investigators according to their contribution as assessed by the Trial Management Group.

III) Substudies and spin-offs

Authorships will be jointly decided by the leader of the substudy and the Trial Management Group and will be based on the contribution to that particular study and manuscript, considering both recruitment of patients and intellectual contribution to the study.

Concerning all papers:

Each person wishing to be a co-author and fulfilling the other criteria for authorship must answer the correspondence promptly and send the necessary conflict of interest forms and other necessary documents without delay. If the corresponding author does not receive the documents by the deadline set by the corresponding or lead author, the person is not entitled to authorship.

The corresponding author must allow 14 days for the co-authors to review and comment on the manuscript, when it is first sent to co-authors.

Each co-author must have been directly involved with the study and contributed to it. Department and/or Academic leadership without direct study involvement is not an acceptable basis for authorship.