

Assessing Requirement Rates of Reporting Guidelines and Study Registration in Pediatric Medical Journals



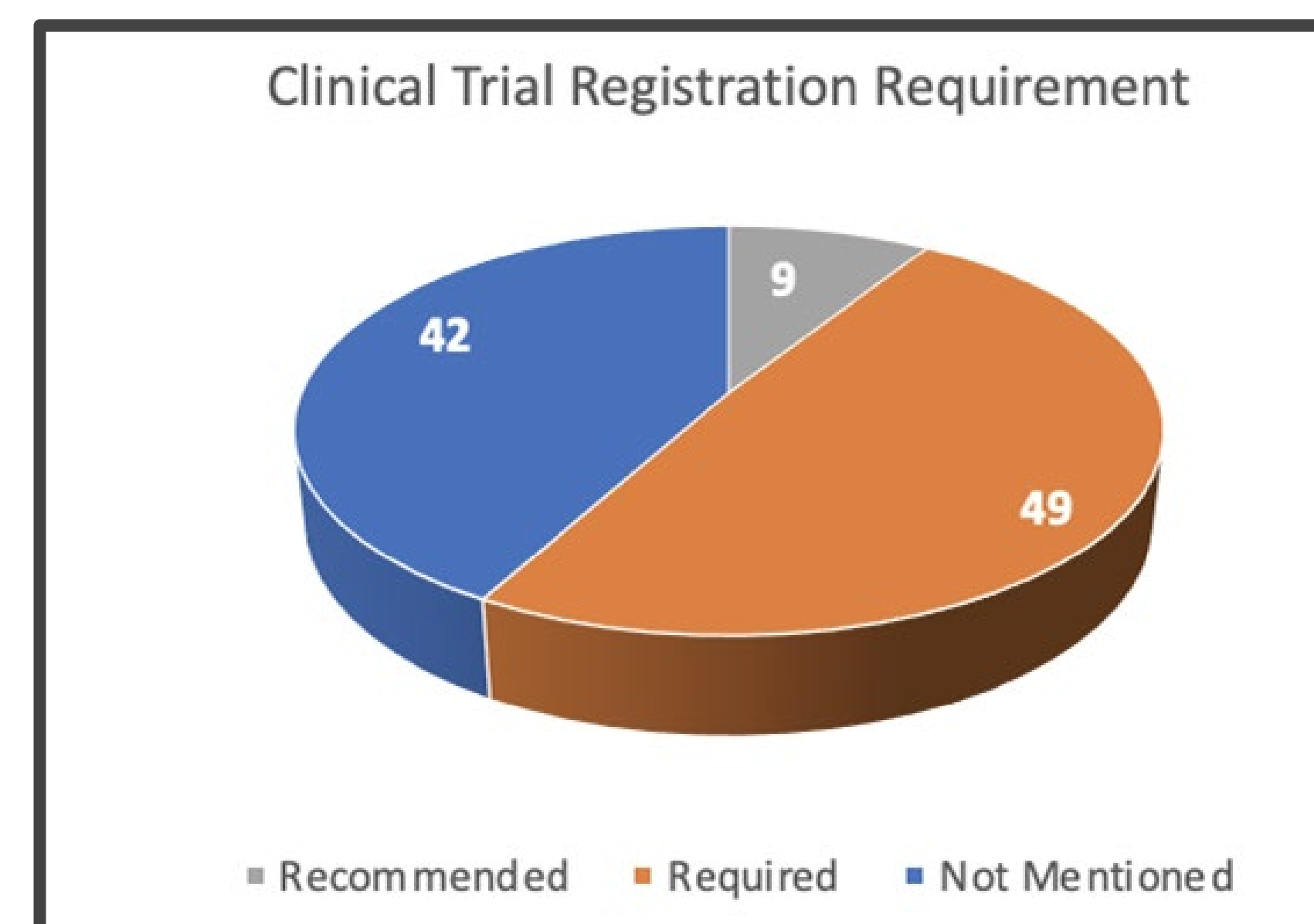
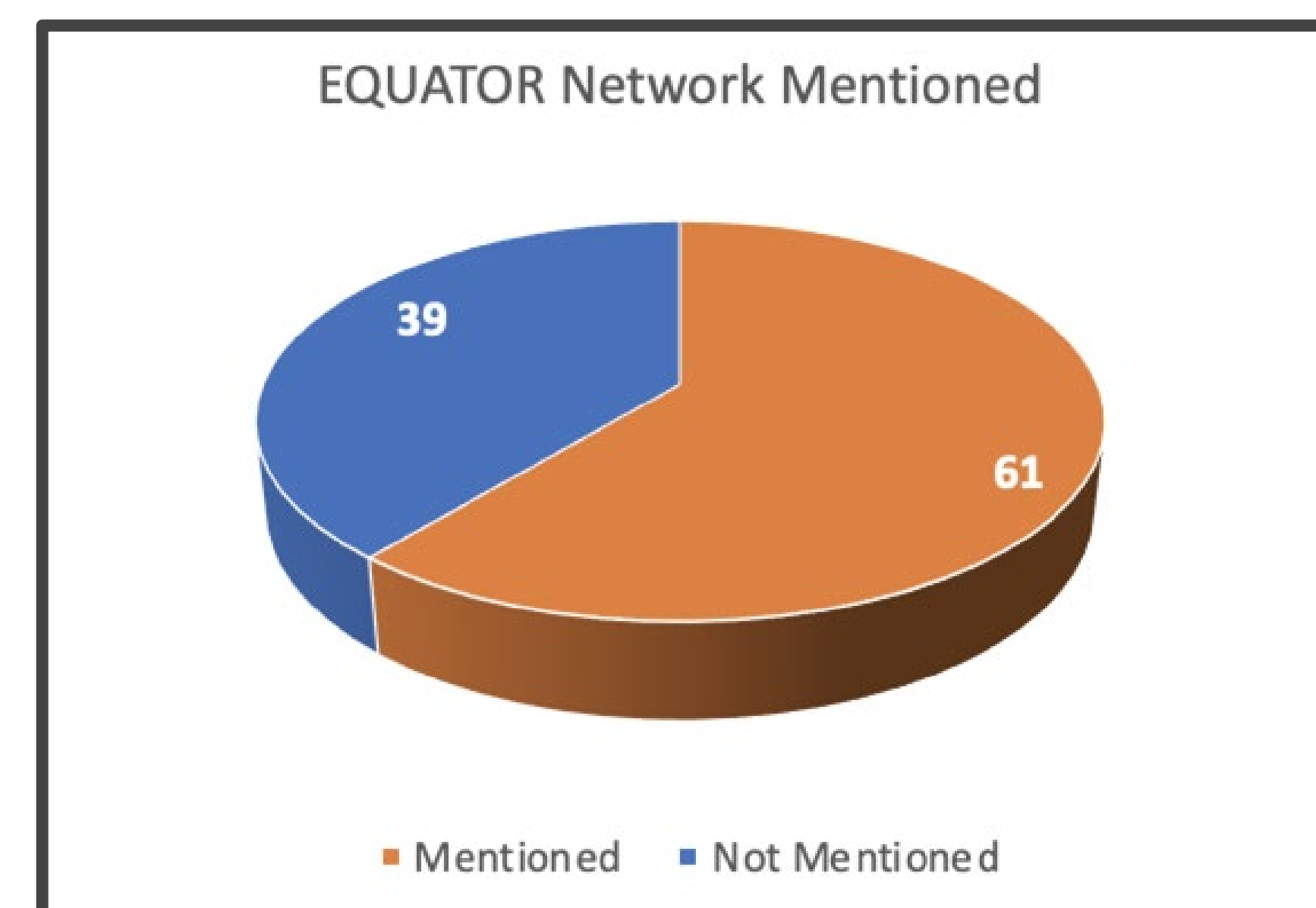
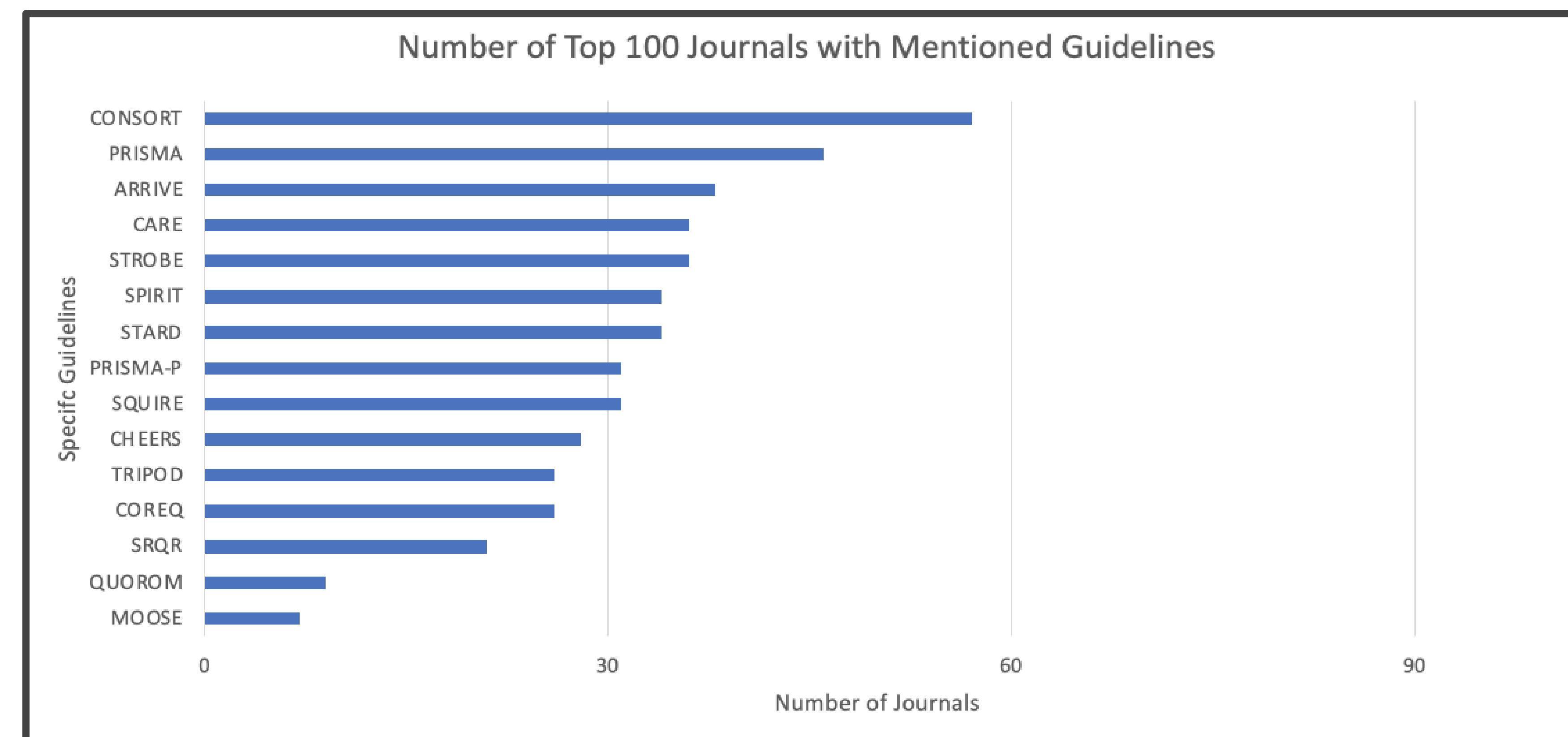
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INTRODUCTION

- Adherence to reporting guidelines and clinical trial registration are two methods of improving the quality of clinical research.
- These methods help to mitigate biases and improve the transparency of research practices.
- Currently, there is inadequate coverage on the requirements of reporting guideline adherence and clinical trial registration in pediatric medical journals.
- We aim to investigate the adoption of these requirements in the journals' instructions for authors in this medical specialty.

METHODS

- Our systematic review assessed the top 100 peer-reviewed clinical pediatric journals that were identified using the 2021 Scopus CiteSource tool.
- In a masked duplicate fashion, two investigators extracted data from each journal's "instructions for authors" webpage concerning statements regarding the Enhancing the QUALity and Transparency Of health Research (EQUATOR) Network and/or ICMJE.
- Selected reporting guidelines as outlined by the EQUATOR Network, and clinical trial registration requirements.
- To eliminate bias, each journal's editorial board was contacted to confirm which article types are accepted.



	Not Mentioned	Recommended	Not Required	Required
CONSORT	43 (45%)	31 (32%)	N/A	22 (23%)
MOOSE	93 (95%)	3 (3.1%)	N/A	2 (2.0%)
QUOROM	91 (99%)	8 (7.9%)	1 (1.1%)	N/A
PRISMA	54 (57%)	29 (31%)	N/A	12 (13%)

Table 1. Frequencies of guideline use in instructions for authors.

RESULTS

- Of the 100 journals analyzed, 61 did not mention the EQUATOR Network.
- The most frequent guidelines reported were CONSORT and PRISMA.
- 31 journals recommended the use of CONSORT guidelines, while 22 journals required its use.
- 29 journals recommended the use of PRISMA guidelines, while 12 journals required it.
- The least mentioned guidelines were QUOROM and MOOSE.
- We found that 91 journals did not mention the use of QUOROM.
- 93 journals did not mention the use of MOOSE.
- Clinical trial registration was recommended in 9 journals and required in 49 journals.
- Overall, we found that none of the investigated reporting guidelines were reported in more than 50% of our journal sample.

CONCLUSION

- The majority of the pediatric journals analyzed scarcely required or recommended reporting guidelines.
- However, the journals that had a higher frequency of guideline reporting recommendations and requirements had higher rates of mentioning the EQUATOR Network.
- We recommend that pediatric journals consider enforcing the use of reporting guidelines as this is likely to cause a subsequent improvement in the quality of published results, as well as decrease the incidence of biases.

REFERENCES



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