

# Quality of the editorial management of the Cuban Journal of Health Technology

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## ABSTRACT

**Introduction:** The quality indicators of a scientific journal express processes of necessary rigor towards what is published. **Objective:** To describe the quality of the editorial management of the scientific articles of the Cuban Journal of Health Technology. **Methods:** A descriptive cross-sectional study was carried out on the quality of the journal's editorial management in 2023. The analysis was based on a Redalyc Scientific Information System indexing criteria list. **Results:** A total of 60 criteria were analyzed. Of these, the journal meets 100% of the essential admission criteria. However, the requirements for the qualitative and quantitative valuation were not met. The journal meets 88.9% of the requirements in qualitative criteria, and compliance in highly valued quantitative criteria is 90.91%. **Conclusions:** The quality of the journal's editorial management was described. The results show high efficiency in the editorial process, with review and publication times that are within international standards.

**Keywords:** Quality; Editorial management; Scientific journals.

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## Calidad de la gestión editorial de la Revista Cubana de Tecnología de la Salud

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### ABSTRACT

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**Introducción:** los indicadores de calidad de una revista científica expresan procesos de necesario rigor hacia lo que se publica. **Objetivo:** describir la calidad de la gestión editorial de los artículos científicos de la Revista Cubana de Tecnología de la Salud. **Métodos:** se realizó un estudio descriptivo de corte transversal sobre la calidad de la gestión editorial de la revista, en el año 2023. El análisis fue realizado a partir de una lista de criterios de indexación del Sistema de Información Científica Redalyc. **Resultados:** se analizaron un total de 60 criterios. De los cuales, la revista cumple con el 100% en la categoría de criterios básicos de admisión. Sin embargo, en los criterios cualitativos y los cuantitativos de alta valoración, hubo un grupo de criterios que no se cumplieron. En criterios cualitativos, la revista cumple un 88,9% de los criterios, y en criterios cuantitativos de alta valoración el cumplimiento es de 90,91%. **Conclusiones:** se describió la calidad de la gestión editorial de la revista. Los resultados obtenidos muestran una alta eficiencia en el proceso editorial, con tiempos de revisión y publicación que se encuentran dentro de los estándares internacionales.

**Palabras clave:** Calidad; Gestión editorial; Revistas científicas.

## Qualité de la gestion éditoriale de la Revue Cubaine de Technologie de la Santé

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### RÉSUMÉ

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**Introduction:** Les indicateurs de qualité d'une revue scientifique expriment des processus de rigueur nécessaire à ce qui est publié. **Objectif:** Décrivez la qualité de la gestion éditoriale des articles scientifiques du magazine cubain de la technologie de la santé. **Méthodes:** Une étude descriptive en section croisée sur la qualité de la gestion éditoriale du magazine a été réalisée, en 2023. L'analyse a été réalisée à partir d'une liste des critères d'indexation du système d'information scientifique Redalyc. **Résultats:** Un total de 60 critères ont été analysés. Dont, Le magazine est conforme à 100% dans la catégorie des critères d'admission de base. Cependant, selon les critères qualitatifs et quantitatifs d'une évaluation élevée, il y avait un groupe de critères qui n'étaient pas remplis. Dans les critères qualitatifs, le magazine répond à 88,9% des critères, et dans les critères quantitatifs de la conformité à l'évaluation élevée est de 90,91%. **Conclusions:** La qualité de la gestion éditoriale du magazine a été décrite. Les résultats obtenus montrent une grande efficacité dans le processus éditorial, avec des temps d'examen et de publication qui se trouvent dans les normes internationales.

**Mots clés:** Qualité; la gestion éditoriale; Revues scientifiques

## Qualidade do gerenciamento editorial da Revista Cubana de Tecnologia da Saúde

### RÉSUME

**Introdução:** Os indicadores de qualidade de um Journal Scientific Express Processos de rigor necessário para o que é publicado. **Objetivo:** Descreva a qualidade do gerenciamento editorial dos artigos científicos da revista Cuban of Health Technology. **Métodos:** Foi realizado um estudo cruzado descritivo sobre a qualidade do gerenciamento editorial da revista, em 2023. A análise foi realizada a partir de uma lista de critérios de indexação do sistema de informações científicas do Redalyc. **Resultados:** Foram analisados 60 critérios. Dos quais, A revista está em conformidade com 100% na categoria de critérios básicos de admissão. No entanto, em critérios qualitativos e quantitativos de alta avaliação, houve um grupo de critérios que não foram cumpridos. Em critérios qualitativos, a revista atende a 88,9% dos critérios, e em critérios quantitativos de alta conformidade de avaliação é de 90,91%. **Conclusões:** A qualidade da gestão editorial da revista foi descrita. Os resultados obtidos mostram alta eficiência no processo editorial, com tempos de revisão e publicação que estão dentro dos padrões internacionais.

**Palavras -chave:** qualidade; Gerenciamento editorial; Revistas científicas.

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## INTRODUCTION

A scientific journal is a periodical publication that presents scientific articles on research and development in any area of science. The essential component is the scientific article that constitutes a contribution to science.<sup>1,2</sup>

The quality indicators of a journal express processes of rigor regarding what is published. They include those related to the ways of doing things within the journal, an institutionalized body that measures the quality of editorial management. In the end, everything converges on one point: ensuring the quality of a scientific publication.

Raising efficiency standards means defending the right to exist knowledge displayed in the form of a product that constitutes the heritage of a specific scientific community. This forces the publication to insert itself in the current state of science. From a general point of view, a scientific journal can also be defined as an information system.

The dissemination of scientific knowledge allows the results to be known, discussed, and disseminated by the academic community, ensuring an active presence within countries' development. As science has evolved, concern has grown for the quality and impact of scientific journals, which are the primary means of communication.

Scientific journals' quality standards have been increasing. Editorial management processes are constantly reviewed and updated to seek continuous improvements that favor the communication of science.

These processes involve a sequence of stages that allow us to assess quality. These include

receipt of the manuscript, peer review, review by the authors, layout and formatting, and, finally, publication. Several actors are involved in this: the authors, reviewers, and, of course, the editors.

The Cuban Journal of Health Technology (RCTS) aims to internationalize, increase visibility, coverage, and impact open access. Its focus is on quality and sustainability in editorial management, a complex and dynamic challenge. Proper editorial management depends on these publications' good positioning and visibility.

The sustainability of editorial management guarantees the satisfaction of current needs regarding the editorial development of a scientific journal. It also verifies originality, relevance, novelty, representation, and organization from a formal and scientific point of view.

This research aims to describe the quality of the RCTS's editorial management with a view to continuous improvement in the editorial process. Optimizing the editorial quality indicators presented in the study will allow for increased visibility and impact.

## METHOD

A descriptive cross-sectional study was carried out on the quality of the editorial management of the RCTS in 2023. The analysis was carried out based on a list of indexing criteria of the Scientific Information System of the Network of Scientific Journals of Latin America and the Caribbean, Spain, and Portugal (Redalyc).<sup>5</sup>

Based on observation and documentary analysis, compliance with 60 criteria classified below was studied:

Categories	Description	Criteria
<b>Basic admission criteria</b>	Criteria that must be met by journals interested in belonging to the Redalyc Information System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Immediate Open Access Policy</li> <li>• No Item Processing Charges (APC)</li> <li>• Publishing Institution</li> <li>• Peer review</li> <li>• Antique</li> <li>• Compliance with periodicity</li> <li>• Identification Data</li> </ul>
<b>Qualitative criteria</b>	Essential aspects of community building, scientific and editorial quality of journals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Percentage of scientific content</li> <li>• Exogeneity of publications</li> <li>• Articles per year</li> <li>• XML JATS</li> <li>• Exogeneity of publications</li> </ul>

Categories	Description	Criteria
<b>High-value quantitative criteria</b>	If the journal satisfactorily meets all the essential criteria, compliance with the requirements considered high value in the editorial processes is verified.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indexations</li> <li>• Electronic platform</li> <li>• Reading formats</li> <li>• Scientific content</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Editorial practices</li> <li>• Publication date</li> <li>• Open access</li> <li>• Editorial management</li> <li>• Leveraging Technology</li> </ul>

An observation guide comprising the indexing criteria collected data for each indicator. The data were processed using *Microsoft Excel* and *IBM SPSS Statistics 25*.

Descriptive statistics were used to analyze the proportion of criteria by category met in the journal. Tables and figures were used to represent the fulfillment of these criteria and to visualize the results of the qualitative category indicators.

Ethical aspects of the research were met. Data confidentiality was maintained. It was accessible only to researchers and used for scientific purposes.

**RESULTS**

A total of 60 criteria were analyzed. Of these, the journal meets 100% of the essential admission criteria. The journal meets 88.9% in qualitative criteria, and in quantitative criteria of high evaluation, the compliance is 90.91% (Figure 1).

The overall total shows compliance with 54 of the 60 criteria analyzed. This corresponds to compliance with 90.0% of Redalyc's indexing criteria.



**Figure 1.** Distribution of compliance with editorial management criteria in the RCTS.

The data in the figure highlights key areas where editorial management can focus to improve compliance with the established criteria. Although most of the qualitative criteria are met, a percentage is still not. Similarly, the highly valued quantitative criteria show a low proportion of non-compliance, indicating several opportunities for improvement. Working on these aspects could lead to even more robust editorial management.

Table 2 presents the analysis results of compliance with editorial practices at the RCTS. These were obtained from the evaluation of four key areas. The journal complies with 100% of the editorial practice criteria. It shows that it complies with 94.4% of the editorial management, while 5.8% are unmet.

83.3% of the Open Access requirements are met. In the Technology Utilization section, 80.0% of the criteria observed meet the standards. In general, the result indicates that

the quality of the journal's editorial management is high, but there are still aspects to improve

regarding the percentage that shows the lowest compliance.

**Table 2.** High evaluation criteria for the quality of editorial management at the RCTS

Criteria	Not fulfilled		It is fulfilled		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Editorial practices	0	0	10	100	10	100
Editorial management	1	5.8	17	94.4	18	100
Open access	1	20	5	83.3	6	100
Application of Technology	2	25	8	80	10	100

Table 3 shows a high level of originality, indicating that the articles published in the journal are unique and contribute fresh ideas to the scientific field. The average number of articles published annually was 83, which suggests constant activity and a regular flow of information.

Exogeneity is the proportion of articles written by external authors. A high value indicates that members outside the sponsoring institution write most articles. Furthermore, the exogeneity of the reviewers had a value of 92.5, which indicates the proportion of reviewers external to the institution who review the articles before publication, suggesting an impartial and rigorous review in the journal.

**Table 3.** RCTS Editorial Indicators

Indicators	Worth
Originality	75.47 %
Average number of publications per year	83
Exogeneity of publications	18.86 %
Exogeneity of the editorial board	73.07 %
Exogeneity of evaluators	92.5 %

## DISCUSSION

The editorial process of scientific journals is complex but essential for disseminating scientific knowledge. The quality of the process resides in the authors, editors, and reviewers, who must have the necessary responsibility, experience, and knowledge to guarantee the quality of the published articles.<sup>6,7</sup>

Quality is a concept that is applied to many disciplines of human activity. For this reason, the Real Academia de la Lengua Española, in 2021, defines it as "property or set of properties inherent to something, which allow its value to be judged." Another definition established by the aforementioned entity is the "adequacy of a

product or service to the specified characteristics."<sup>8</sup>

The designation of quality criteria for a scientific journal, also known as quality indicators, establishes an evaluation of these journals that must meet specific requirements to achieve a level of excellence. Various authors emphasize that various factors can be used and integrated for a rational evaluation.<sup>7,8</sup>

According to the authors, an adequate evaluation of a scientific journal with appropriate indicators points towards quality. It has also been noted that any scientific journal considered of quality must be registered in an indexing database and have an impact factor for recognition by the scientific community.<sup>9,10</sup>

Actions have been developed from strategic planning and the design of indexing strategies to raise the editorial quality of the RCTS and, thus, its prestige.<sup>9,11</sup> These strategies have been designed so that managing editorial quality lays the foundations for a successful indexing process.

Previous evidence has focused on the quality of indexing and web visibility of scientific journals. Of the studies consulted, where more than 85% correspond to health sciences, aspects related to publishing in indexing databases such as SciELO, Scopus, Web of Sciences, and MedLine. Compliance with the quality criteria of these systems is essential for consolidating any scientific dissemination body.<sup>12-14</sup>

Therefore, in fulfilling the journal's indexing and web visibility strategy,<sup>9</sup> the quality criteria of Redalyc were analyzed, as it is an indexing system that integrates high-quality scientific and editorial journals from the region that share a non-profit publication model.<sup>15</sup> The areas of improvement identified in this exploration lay the foundations for including the RCTS in this system and others with similar characteristics.



The search for information on journal editorial quality reveals a generally low use of editing tools. A difficulty identified in open-access journals is the low use of XML-JATS formats and available display formats other than PDF. It is essential to highlight the need to offer various display formats, especially HTML, XML, or EPUB.

In addition, other difficulties include lack of adequate funding, insufficient training of technical staff, technological barriers, resistance to change, and challenges related to content accessibility. These limitations underline the importance of investing in resources and training to optimize the quality and visibility of scientific journals.<sup>7,16</sup>

For these reasons, editorial quality management is an activity self-regulated by the institution to facilitate media production processes in permanent interaction.<sup>8,17,18</sup> The authors agree since the study shows professional intervention in improving the visibility and prestige of journals.

This intention has also been evident in other contexts. A Universidad de la Habana study proposes an editorial management model structured in five dimensions and 47 indicators. The model covers everything from conceptualization to post-publication and includes aspects of information literacy,<sup>13</sup> areas in which the RCTS has also improved.

The Universidad de Antioquia has developed a comprehensive manual covering legal and

ethical aspects and the implementation of emerging technologies. This document provides detailed guidelines for planning, executing, and optimizing the editorial process of scientific journals.<sup>19</sup>

Artigas,<sup>17</sup> commented on the importance for universities to have a scientific journal that, in the medium and long term, becomes a reference in the area of knowledge it develops, which, in sum, will give prestige to the university. In this way, many universities have understood the importance of having a scientific journal and, therefore, are concerned with promoting the conditions for their development.<sup>16,21,22</sup>

The above is consistent with the analysis's results. When comparing these with other studies, it can be seen that the RCTS is well positioned in terms of quality and compliance with criteria, with a high proportion of Redalyc indexing criteria.

## CONCLUSIONS

The results show high efficiency in the editorial process, with review and publication times within international standards. Therefore, the quality of the journal's editorial management was described. The quality of peer reviews is notable, guaranteeing the articles' scientific rigor. However, continuing the identified improvements is recommended to maintain and raise quality standards.

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#### **Conflict of interest**

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

#### **Authors' contributions**

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