



# Flowcharts

Ethics Approval and Informed  
Consent Statements

# Flowcharts

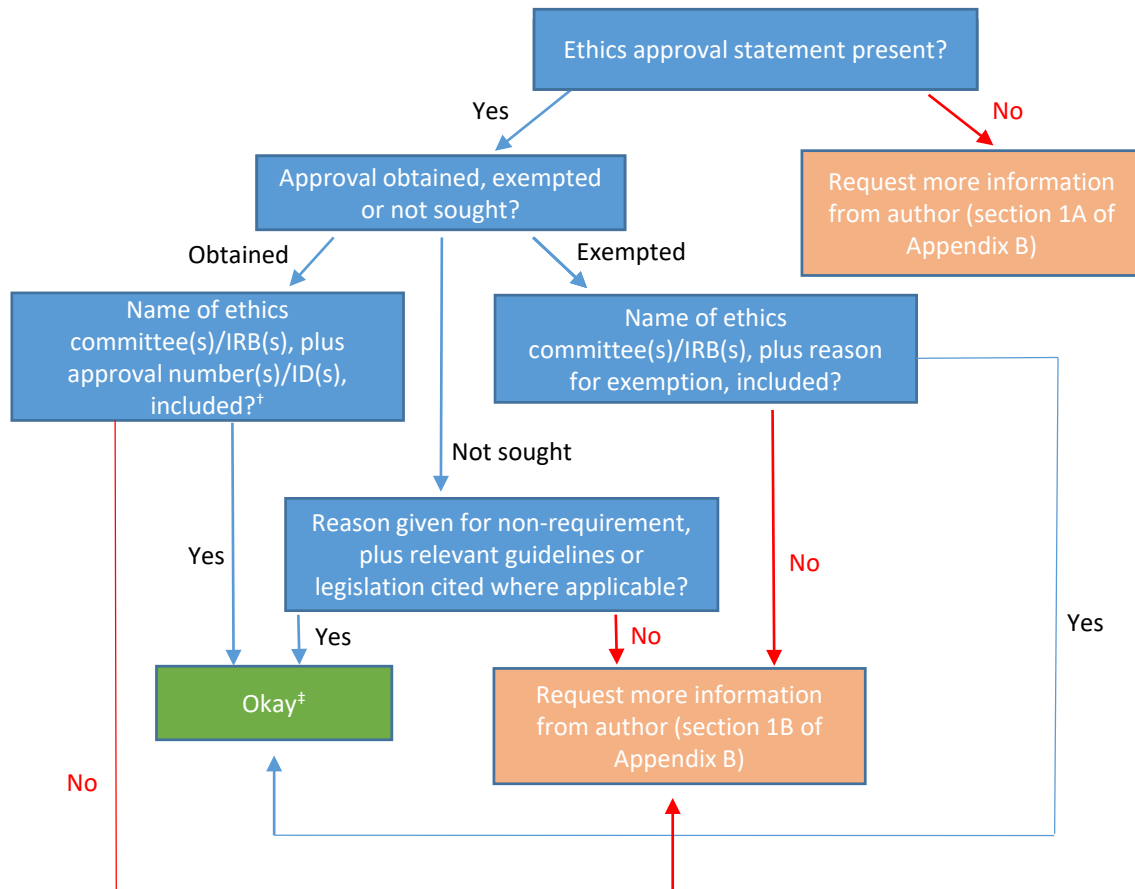
Editors using this resource should identify the study/article type and follow the steps to determine whether adequate ethics approval and informed consent/animal welfare statements have been included or if additional information should be requested from the author (see **Appendix B** for template text).

SAGE advises that manuscripts should not enter peer review or undergo editorial consideration without full statements in place.

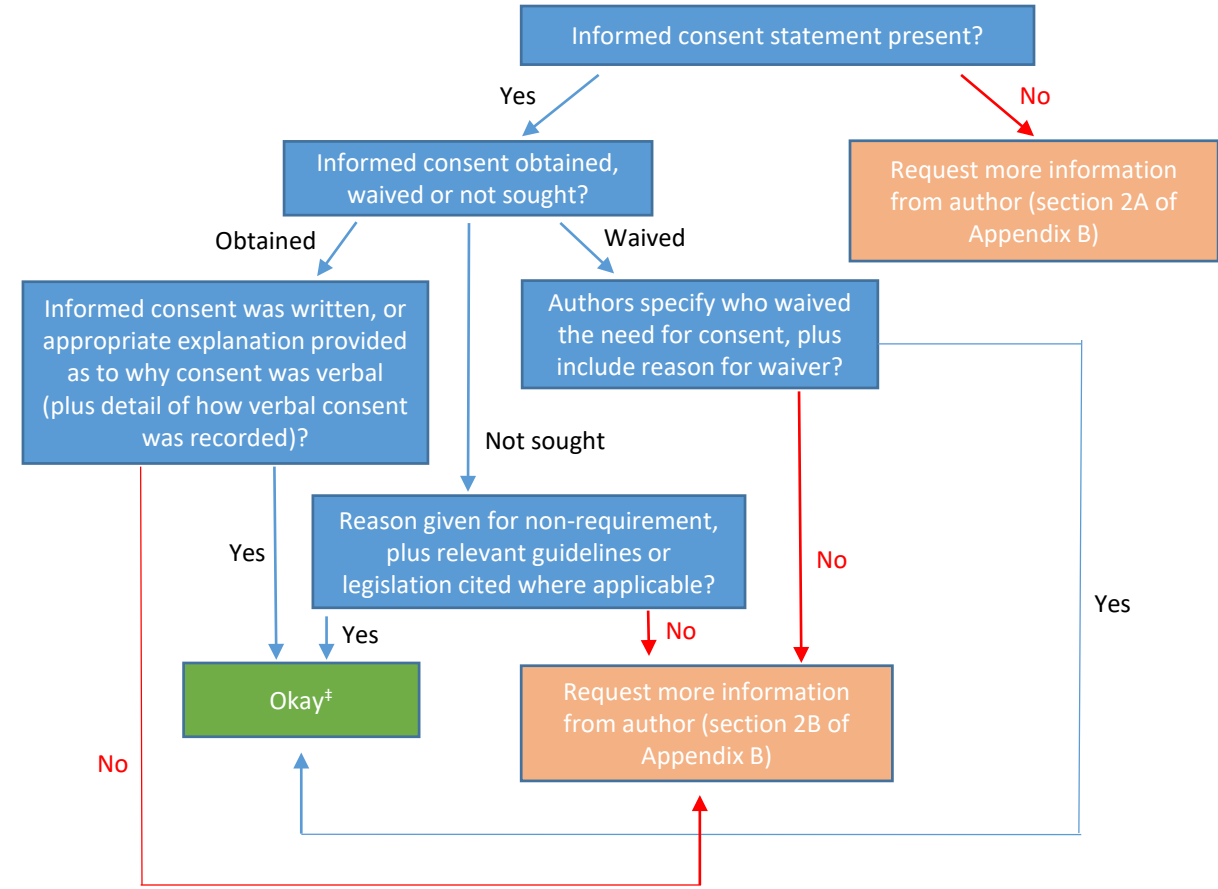
Please note that this is not intended to be an exhaustive list. Editors should request assistance from their SAGE contact if necessary.

# Human\* and in vitro studies

## Ethics approval



## Informed consent<sup>§</sup>



\*Including both research (interventional and observational—both prospective and retrospective—studies, plus case series deemed to constitute research) and non-research (e.g. clinical audits and service evaluations).

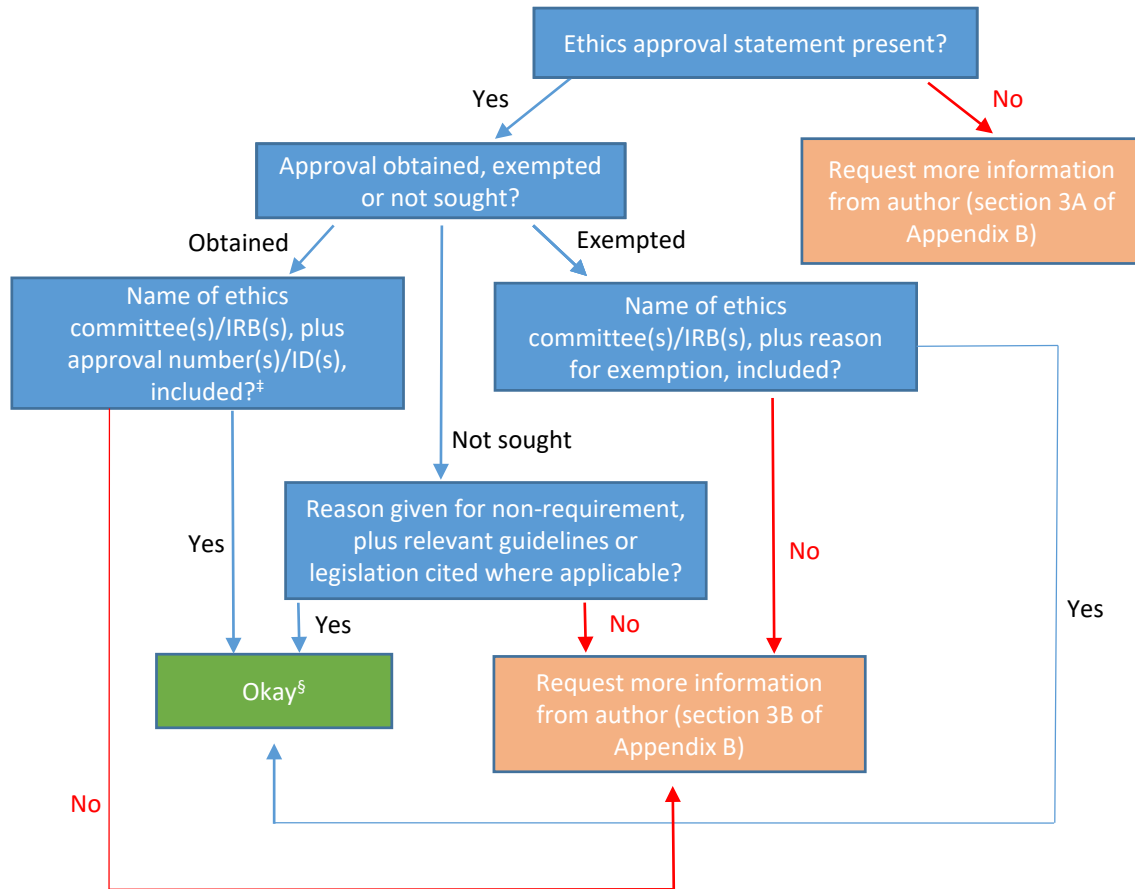
†Papers can proceed to peer review if authors have not provided the approval number/ID, but in their decision letter Editors should request that it be included in the revised paper if available.

‡Editors should be satisfied that appropriate and transparent statements have been provided before proceeding.

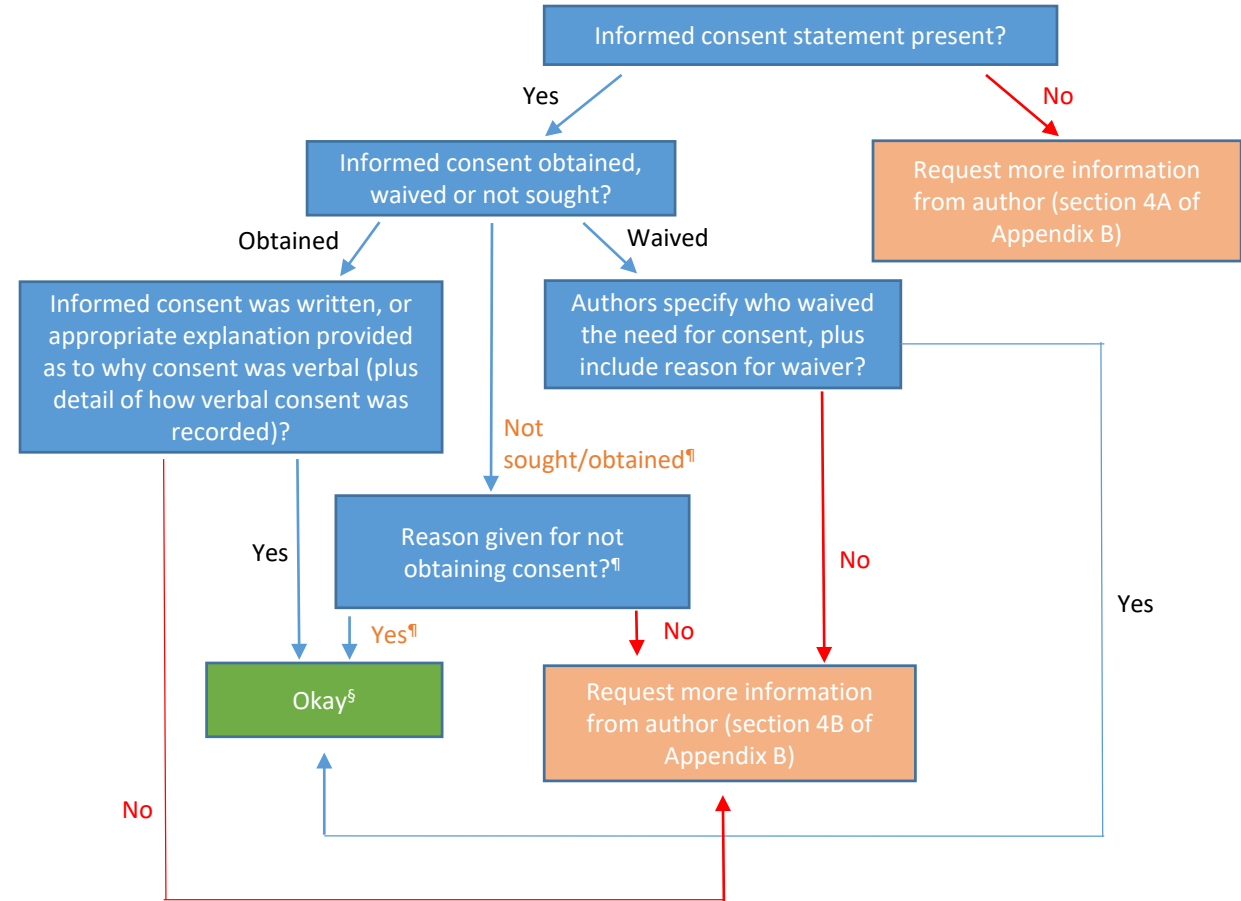
§Specifically for inclusion in and/or collection/use of data/samples for the present study (and potentially for publication if detailed, individual patient information is included). This type of consent is distinct from consent for treatment unless otherwise specified. Consent must be from the participant(s) or their guardian(s)/legally authorized representative(s) (including “gatekeepers” in the case of cluster randomized trials), if applicable. Assent should also be obtained from older children whose guardians/legally authorized representatives have given written informed consent.

# Case reports\*

## Ethics approval†



## Informed consent‖



\*Including case series deemed NOT to constitute research according to an appropriate body/guidelines.

†Although many ethics committees/IRBs do not require ethics approval for case reports or non-research case series, this information should be included for transparency and complete reporting.

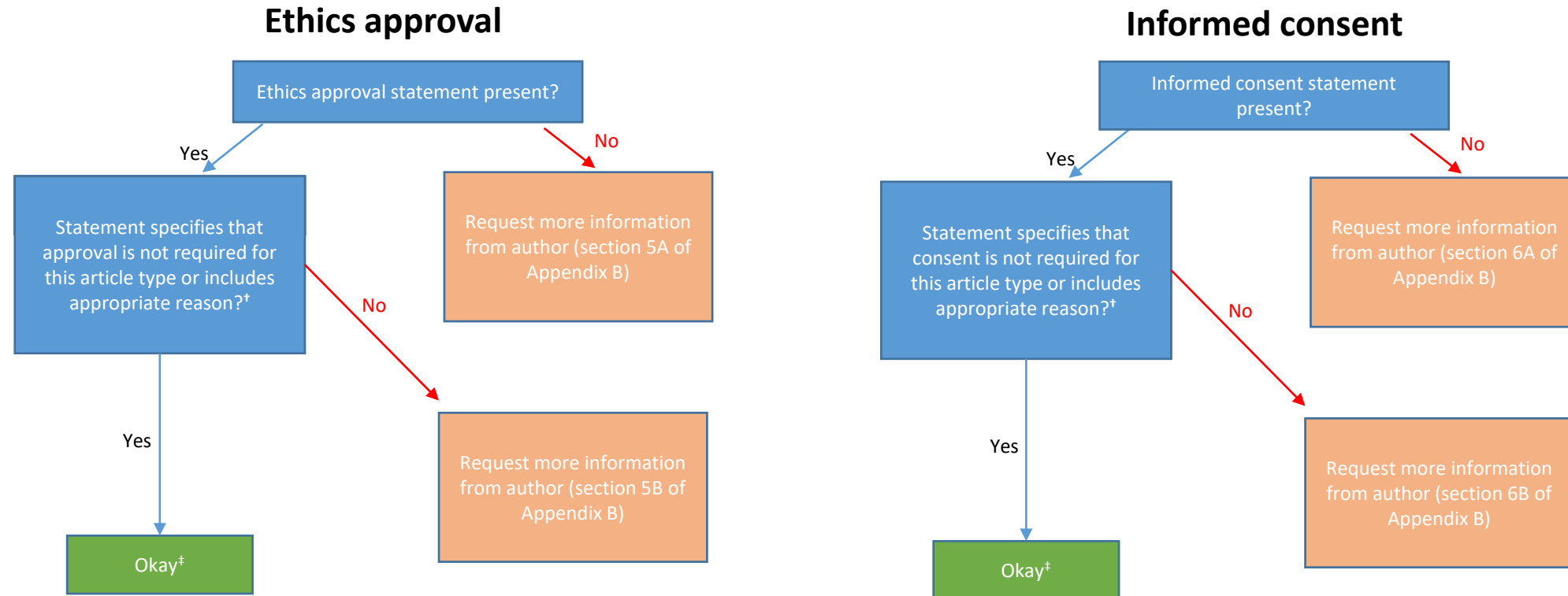
‡Papers can proceed to peer review if authors have not provided the approval number/ID, but in their decision letter Editors should request that it be included in the revised paper if available.

§Editors should be satisfied that appropriate and transparent statements have been provided before proceeding.

‖Specifically for the publication of patient information in the present manuscript. This is distinct from consent for treatment unless otherwise specified. Consent must be from the patient(s) or their guardian(s)/legally authorized representative(s), if applicable. Assent should also be obtained from older children whose guardians/legally authorized representatives have given written informed consent.

¶It is standard SAGE policy to require informed consent for the publication of case reports and non-research case series, except in exceptional circumstances or when waived by ethics committee/IRB or other authorized body. Even then, for completeness, Editors may wish to request consent for publication before considering a case report or non-research case series.

# Reviews and other\*

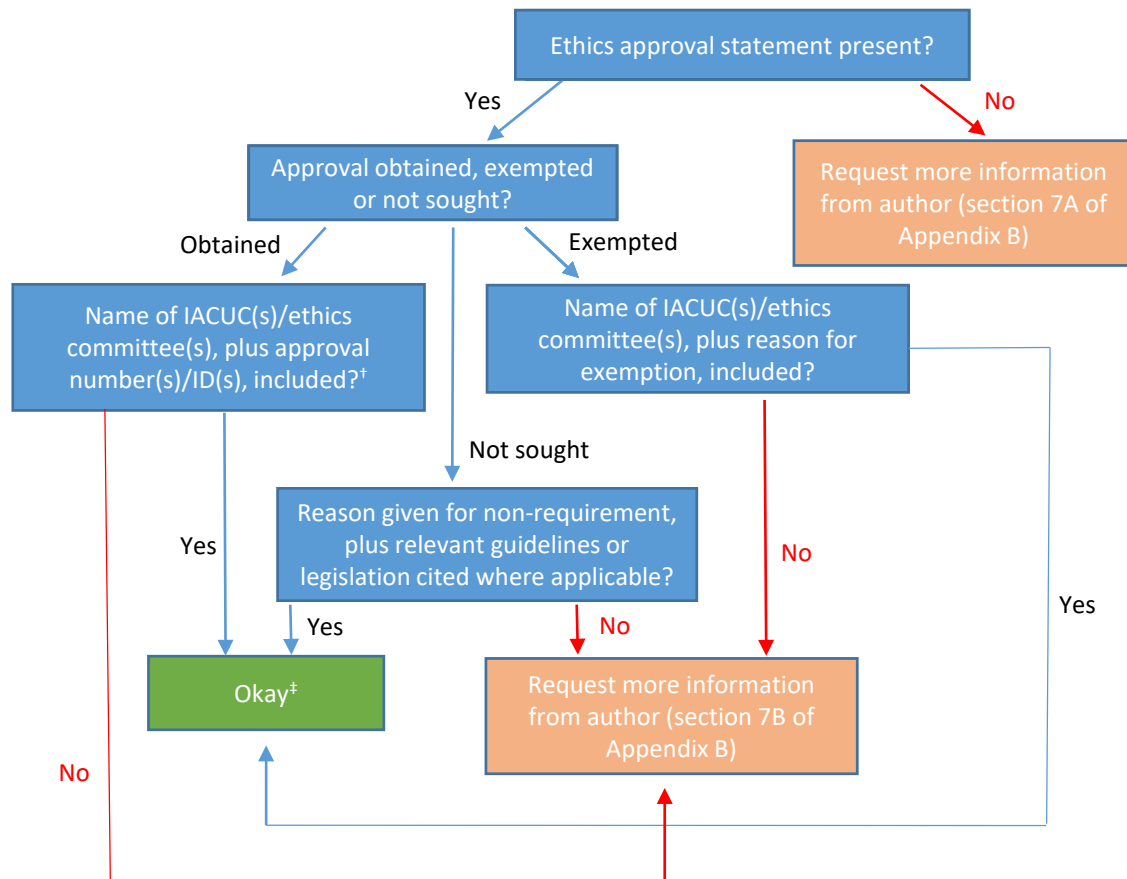


\*For example, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, editorials. Although ethics approval and informed consent may not be required for these article types, SAGE recommends that authors of manuscripts submitted to journals that publish human and/or animal studies include statements specifying this, in order to ensure transparency and complete reporting.

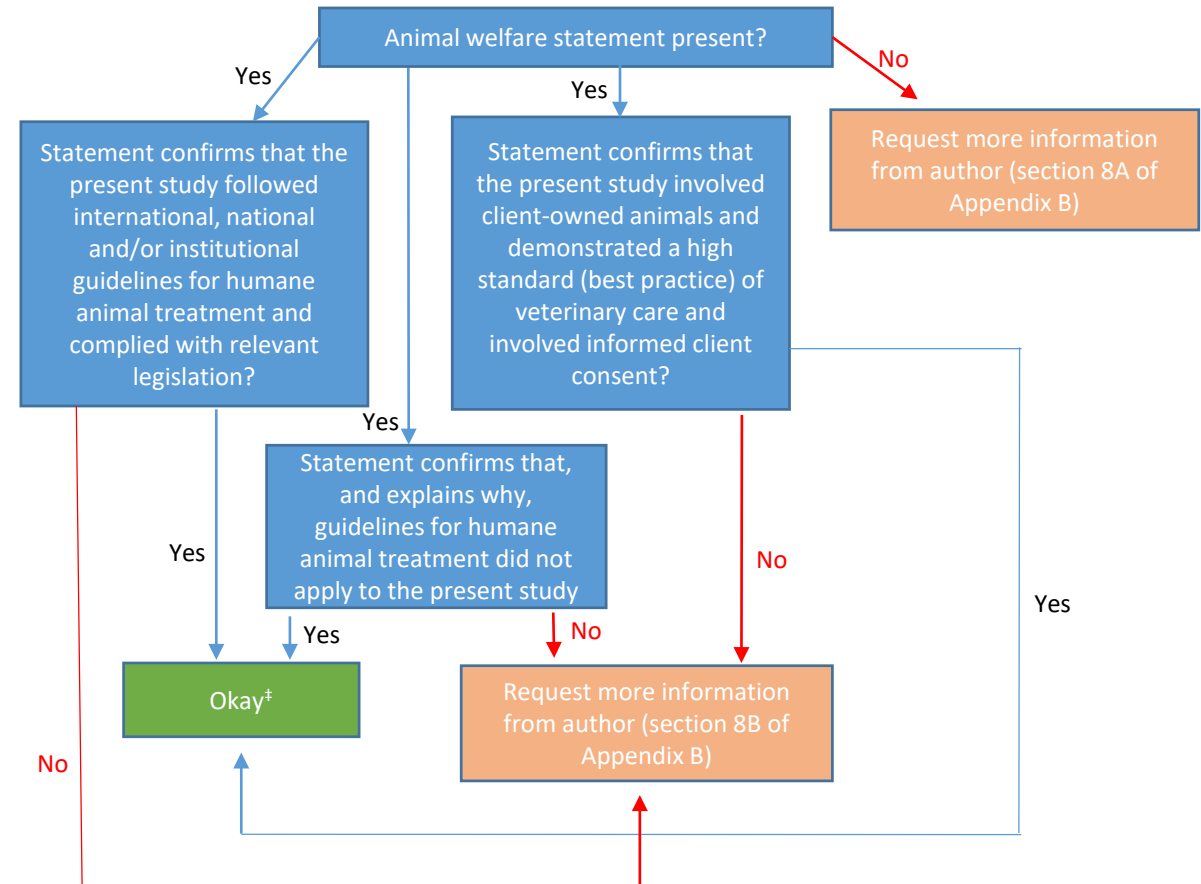
†Papers can proceed to peer review without this detail, but in their decision letter Editors should request that it be included in the revised paper.

‡Editors should be satisfied that appropriate and transparent statements have been provided before proceeding.

## Ethics approval



## Animal welfare



\*Ethics approval and animal welfare guidelines apply to animal studies involving vertebrates or regulated invertebrates. However, SAGE recommends that authors include statements for all animal studies (including those involving invertebrates), in order to ensure transparency and complete reporting.

†Papers can proceed to peer review if authors have not provided the approval number/ID, but in their decision letter Editors should request that it be included in the revised paper if available.

‡Editors should be satisfied that appropriate and transparent statements have been provided before proceeding.