Summary of Policy
The Director of the National Institutes of Health shall require that all investigators funded by the NIH submit or have submitted for them to the National Library of Medicine’s PubMed Central an electronic version of their final, peer-reviewed manuscripts upon acceptance for publication, to be made publicly available no later than 12 months after the official date of publication. The NIH Public Access Policy applies to all peer-reviewed articles that arise, in whole or in part, from direct costs funded by NIH that are accepted for publication on or after April 7, 2008.

To what papers does the NIH Public Access Policy Apply?
Manuscripts that are:
- Peer-reviewed.
- Accepted for publication in a journal on or after April 7, 2008.
- Arises from direct funding from an NIH grant, cooperative agreement, or contract.

The policy does NOT apply to non-peer-reviewed materials such as correspondence, book chapters, and editorials.

PUBMED CENTRAL (PMCID) IS NOT THE SAME AS PUBMED (PMID)!
A publication may be listed in PubMed, but not in PubMed Central, and vice versa. In addition, PubMed and PubMed Central have different numbering systems, so the PMID # will not be the same as the PMCID #.

Here is an example of the different numbering systems for PubMed Central vs. PubMed for the same publication:

- PubMed Central (PMCID): PMC2467381
- PubMed (PMID): 18636118

PubMed Central Website:
http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/

PubMed Website:
How can I find the PubMed Central ID # (PMCID #)?
Go to the PubMed Central website. In the search box, type in the title of the publication and hit the Find Articles button. Find the item from the search results that matches your publication. The PMCID # will be listed within the search results for that item.
If you cannot find the publication, it means your PI has not submitted his/her publication to PubMed Central and may be out of compliance with this policy!

How-To website for submission methods to PubMed Central:
http://publicaccess.nih.gov/submit_process.htm

How do I comply with the policy?

Bibliography & References Cited
The PMCID # is required for any publication authored by the PI or any publication that arose from the PI’s NIH funds (even if s/he is not the author), and was accepted for publication on or after April 7, 2008.

BioSketches
The PMCID # is required for any publication accepted for publication on or after April 7, 2008.

Progress Report Publication List (for Renewals)
The PMCID # is required for any publication accepted for publication on or after April 7, 2008.

Non-Competing Continuation Progress Reports
The PMCID # is required for any publication accepted for publication on or after April 7, 2008. The PMCID # should be included as follows:
- For PHS 2590 Progress Reports: within each citation listed under the subheading E. Publications.
- For eSNAP Progress Reports: within each citation listed under the Publication section of the PI's Personal Profile within the Commons.