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If the manuscript passes its initial assessment, it is then forwarded to the Executive Editor with appropriate expertise in the subject area or study design. The Executive Editor is responsible for identifying at least 2 external peer reviewers with expertise in the topic or specialty of the paper. The peer review process may require 2 to 4 weeks before a first decision is reached. The corresponding author is then asked to revise the manuscript, as needed, based on the reviewer's comments and suggestions.

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