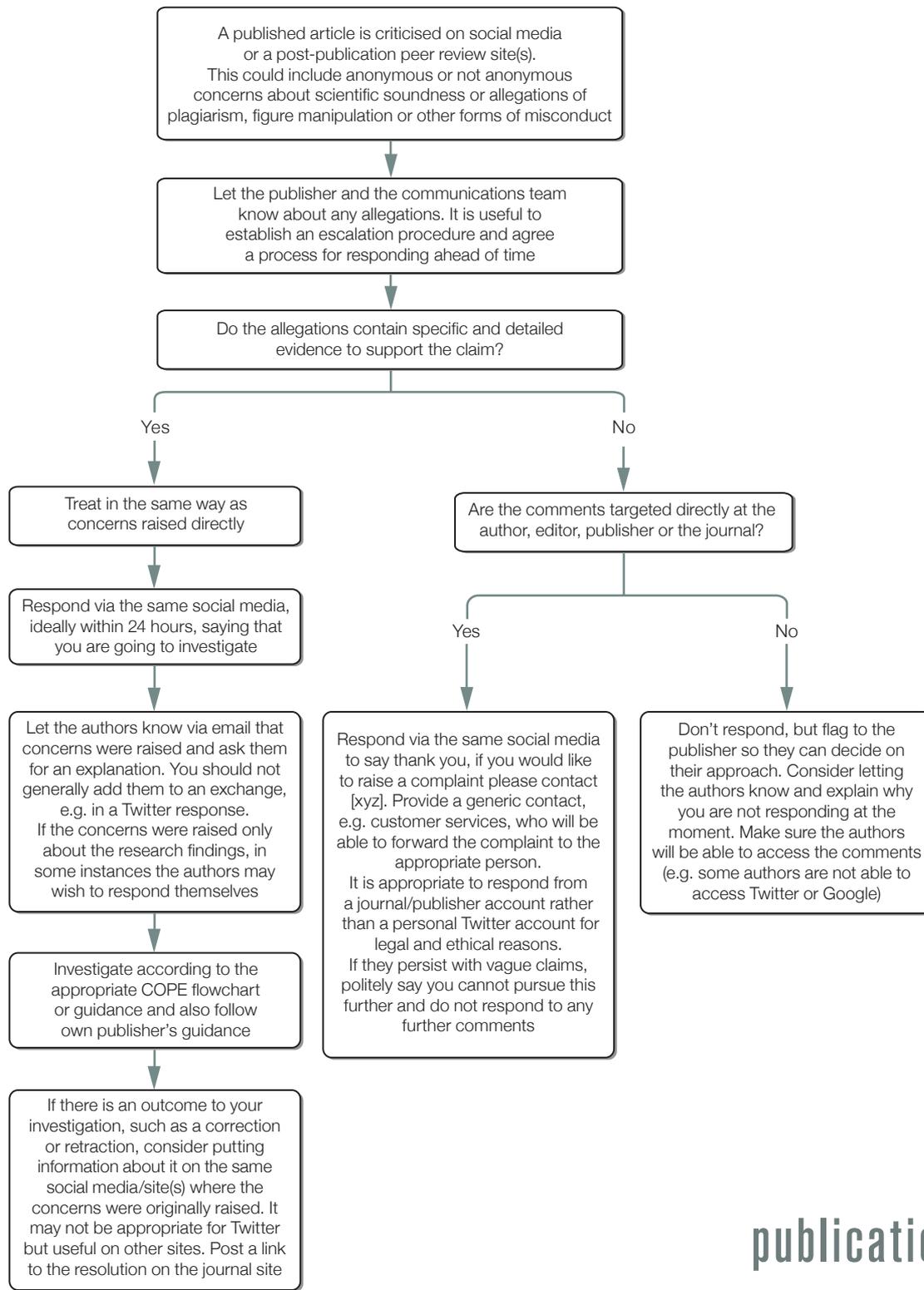




# How to respond to whistle blowers when concerns are raised via social media



**Note**  
The tone of the allegations may be aggressive or personal. Respond politely; don't get drawn into personal exchanges

**Note**  
Sometimes the whistle blower may prefer to remain anonymous. It is important not to try to "out" people who wish to be anonymous

**Note**  
It is important to take the discussion away from the public domain; don't engage in specific discussions on social media

Developed in collaboration with BioMed Central

© 2015 Committee on Publication Ethics and BioMed Central

Version one  
Published November 2015

A non-exclusive licence to reproduce these flowcharts may be applied for by writing to: cope\_administrator@publicationethics.org