Initial decision flowchart

1. **Is manuscript in scope?**
   - No: Reject as out of scope. Can recommend other journals.
   - Yes: Proceed to peer review.

2. **Check similarity report**
   - No report or some similarity with content only from non-peer-reviewed manuscripts: Continue to check for further issues.
   - Some content copied from published peer-reviewed papers: Possibility of major redundancy or plagiarism?
     - No: In most cases, correction required and author should be reminded of rules related to plagiarism.
     - Yes: Revisions required.

3. **Is manuscript of sufficient usefulness, interest, novelty?**
   - Yes: No report or some similarity with content only from non-peer-reviewed manuscripts: Continue with review assuming correct paper type.
   - No: Reject with justification and recommendations for how the work could be improved.

4. **Does the selected paper type match the criteria on the GMD website?**
   - No: Title needs correcting.
   - Yes: Email editorial@copernicus.org and request change of paper type.

5. **Is the title correct? (Model/experiment name + version number)**
   - No: Code available but not at best-practice level (e.g., GitHub, website, email, "on request").
   - Yes: Email authors to request code. Make code available to reviewers where appropriate.

6. **Check code/data availability section (must exist).**
   - Code not available for legal reasons but available to editor and anonymous reviewers at minimum: Revisions required.
   - Code in a public repository with DOI (best-practice level) or in supplement: Code not available under any circumstances.
   - Revisions required for any reason?: Initial decision: editor review.

7. **Revision addresses all significant issues?**
   - Yes: Technical corrections or accept for GMDD. Proceed to peer review.
   - No: Any issues are very minor.

8. **Request reasons for code being below best practice and suggest improvements towards best practice level.**
   - Email authors to request code. Make code available to reviewers where appropriate.

9. **Significant issues remain?**
   - Yes: Revisions required.
   - No: Initial decision: editor review.

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Geoscientific Model Development