Annals of Internal Medicine RESEARCH AND REPORTING METHODS

Good Publication Practice for Communicating Company-Sponsored Medical Research: GPP3

GPP3 in practice: what needs to change?

Liz Wager PhD

Publications Consultant

Sideview

www.lizwager.com liz@sideview.demon.co.uk @SideviewLiz

Member: GPP3 Writing Group



©Sideview

Spirit of GPP3

- Update
- Clarification (simplification)
- Evolution not revolution

Remember: GPP is about explaining what we do (eg to editors), as well as setting standards



What had changed since GPP2?

- Data sharing requirements
- ICMJE authorship criteria
- MPIP authorship framework
- AllTrials campaign



What did we notice was missing from GPP2?

- Advice on avoiding plagiarism
- Guidance on putting ICMJE authorship guidelines into practice
- Encore abstracts



What got more emphasis?

- Commitment to publish results of all trials
- 'Philosophy' of authorship (as intellectual contribution)



What's on the list for GPP4?

- Handling reviewer comments
- More on reviewing outlines
- Author access to invididual patient-level data

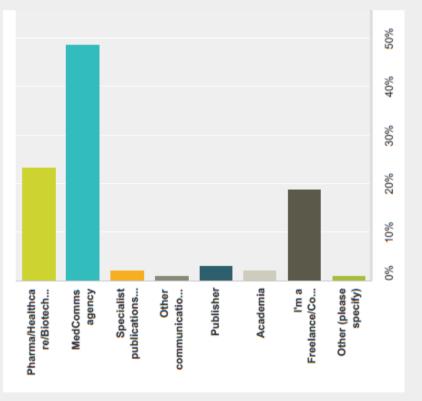


What do YOU think?

- Flash survey
- *Not* hard science
- BUT we got almost 200 responses

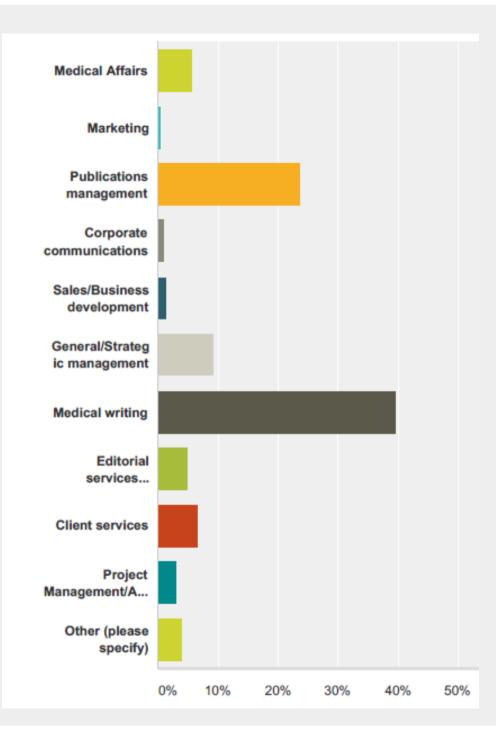
Who responded? Total = 197

- 60% UK
- 27% US
- 7% Europe



- 50% Agency
- 23% Pharma
- 19% Freelance
- 3% Publisher





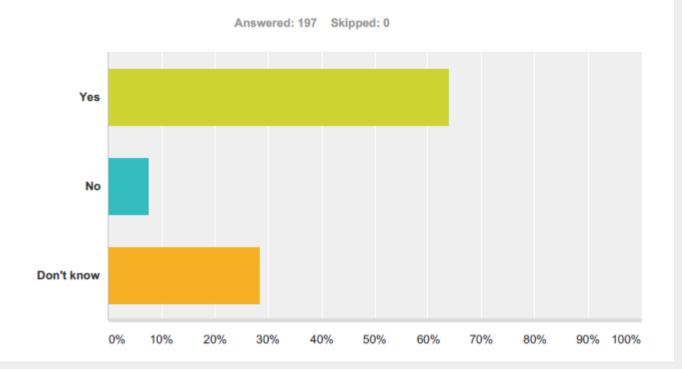
Respondents' role



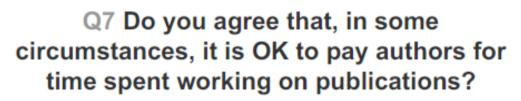


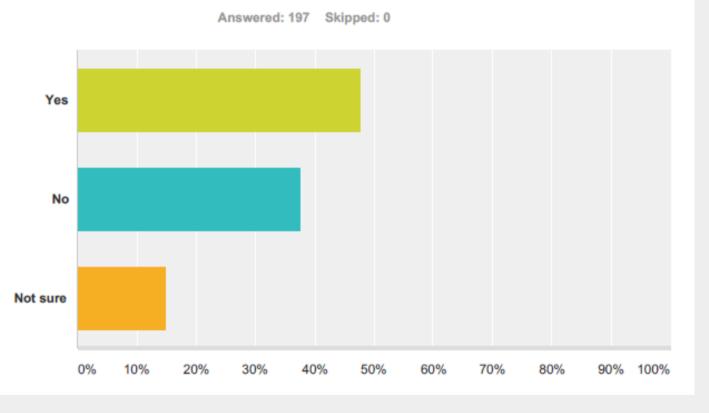


Q6 Whatever your views on the advice, do you think the wording about payment to authors is clearer in GPP3 than it was in GPP2?









48% yes, 38% no, 14% not sure



©Sideview

Unscientific survey – even more unscientific analysis!

47 comments about payment to authors:

- 7 against payment in all circumstances
- 27 OK to pay sometimes
- 8 mixed views (yes and no)
- 5 neutral / incomprehensible



No

"except for travel to present at congresses if they aren't attending already" "I don't think payment for time is reasonable" "It is not OK to pay for their time" "They should never be paid for their time spent writing or reviewing a publication" "Authors should benefit from their publication record only" "Authors should not be paid as it gives the impression of bias"

Yes

"I don't like to work for free. Why should they?" "Payment for verifiable services" "I am OK with payment for stats and medical writing" "When working with expert consultants, it's challenging to work with them and not reimburse them for time on project"



©Sideview

Mixed

"If there is no conflict and authors are already retired ... I do not believe it is OK if the author is a practising physician or is an active academic"

"I am OK with payment for stats and medical writing. But not for the physicians"

"It is not appropriate to pay scientists / clinicians. Professional medical writers can be paid"

"It feels wrong for a company to pay an author to write up results of a study on their drug, however authors often spend a lot of their own free time writing MS for no recompenses, which feels a little unfair when they mostly have fulltime jobs to go to as well"

Is it OK? "Yes, as long as they are not practicing HCPs"



Some interesting questions!

- "Commercial functions should neither direct publication planning or development nor be involved in publication review or approval". Yeah, right.
- I hardly ever get responses on outlines, nobody dials into author TCs and hardly anybody provides substantial contributions to the drafts.
 How can this be dealt with, especially since it needs to be documented that each author has made a significant intellectual contribution?
- Need better guidance on basis for author order (i.e. contributions)



• We still feel that **encore abstracts** and presentations at congresses is still a bit of a grey area. Assuming a congress accepts encore abstracts: 1. Should we contact the first congress to let them know we are taking an abstract and resubmitting to another congress (e.g. local country meeting)? 2. Should we declare to the second congress that the abstract has been published previously and then state on the poster that it has been previously presented? 3. Do we need to seek copyright permission to reproduce the abstract if it has previously been published and we haven't changed it?

