

Presented at the AMWA-DVC

2005 Getting Started in Medical Writing Workshop

What Employers Look for in Medical Writers

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Wyeth
Research

How is GCC Organized?

- **The department is split by writing function**
 - ▶ Publications writing
 - ▶ Regulatory writing
 - ▶ SOPs and manuals

Clinical Publications Group

- **7 Clinical Writers**
- **1 Technical Writer**
- **1 Publications Specialist**
- **1 Administrator**

Regulatory Writing Group

- **32 Clinical Writers**
- **3 Technical Writers**
- **3 Technical Editors**
- **2 Clinical Editors**
- **2 Clinical Document Quality Specialists**

Training, Quality and Compliance

One Writer!

**Additional help from
writers borrowed
from other functions**



What Publications Writers Do

- Prepare manuscripts, abstracts, posters, slide presentations from CR&D trial data
- Develop strategic publications plans
- Chair publication subcommittees
- Coordinate review and sign off of CR&D publications
- Coordinate agency and freelance publications support
- Do not write regulatory documents (CSRs, etc)

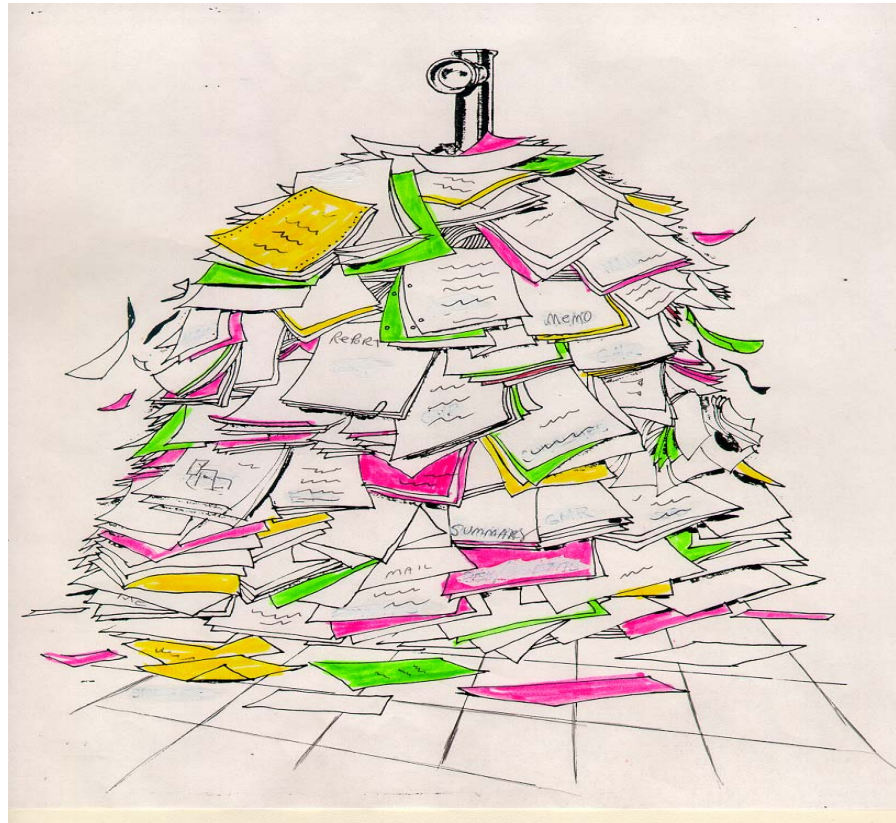
What Regulatory Writers Do

- **Prepare Clinical Study Reports, Investigator Brochures, Summary Documents, Labeling**
- **Become familiar with pertinent guidelines and regulations and company SOPs**
- **Become capable in relevant software applications, especially word and word templates**
- **Develop understanding of how documents relate to one another, a skill that aids in document planning and preparation**
- **Attend meetings, serve on committees**

Writing for Compliance

- **Standard operating procedures, document preparation manuals, training materials**

How Much Work Do Pharmaceutical Writers Do Per Annum?



CR&D Publications Productivity, 2004

	<u>Total</u>	<u>In-house</u>	<u>External</u>
Manuscripts	63	19	42
Abstracts	350	40	310
Posters	275	83	192
Presentations	31	22	9
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External writers included agencies and freelancers

Regulatory Productivity, 2004

	<u>Total</u>	<u>In-house</u>	<u>External</u>
CSRs	83	63	20
IBs	33	33	0
Annual/Quarterly reports	69	62	7
Summaries	152	152	0
Other	94	94	0
Total	431	404	27

External writers included agencies and freelancers

What Qualities Do We Look For?

- **Enthusiasm for writing - willingness to go the extra mile**
- **Ability to gather, synthesize and critically analyze large amounts of data**
- **Express ideas succinctly – not “academic” documents**
- **Good team player**
- **Scientific/medical background**
- **Expertise in 1 or 2 therapeutic areas plus willingness to learn others**
- **Be prepared to have document severely “edited” by team members or investigators**
- **Do not expect to be an author when manuscript is published**
- **Freelancers**
 - ▶ Should be able to attend meetings at Wyeth
 - ▶ Should be willing to commit to a series of related manuscripts/documents
- ***Sense of humor***

What Is Expected?

- **As a Medical Writer, you spend as much time chasing down details, and reconciling discrepancies as you do actually writing;**
- **You must have a thick skin and learn not to take criticism of your writing personally;**
- **You must be able to communicate with many professionals from many functional disciplines;**
- **You're the last one to get the information, and are often expected to work miracles in very short timeframes.**

What Is Expected?

- **As a Medical Writer, you need to keep current with your therapeutic area(s).**
- **You must keep up-to-date with the software used;**
- **If you are freelancing, you must be willing to keep the software on your PC up-to-date;**
- **You must be willing to ask questions; assumptions can result in time wasted;**
- **You must be knowledgeable about processes and style guides.**