What Employers Look for in Medical Writers

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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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>In-house</th>
<th>External</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Manuscripts</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>42</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abstracts</td>
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<td>40</td>
<td>310</td>
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<tr>
<td>Posters</td>
<td>275</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentations</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>719</strong></td>
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External writers included agencies and freelancers
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<th>External</th>
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<td>IBs</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>431</td>
<td>404</td>
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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.