



Complete Medical Group Worldwide

Position Statement on Biomedical Publications

Complete Medical Group Worldwide is composed of separate specialist divisions, some of which, under the direction of the authors, and funded by the sponsors of the research (primarily the biopharmaceutical/medical device industry), are involved in developing biomedical publications. As such, those divisions within Complete Medical Group Worldwide advocate good publication practice¹ and require that the work they undertake in the preparation of manuscripts for peer-reviewed journals and abstracts and poster/podium presentations for congresses is conducted ethically, in line with these principles.

This means that all individuals within Complete Medical Group Worldwide who may be involved in both the research and preparation of biomedical publications:

1. apply the definition of authorship and contribution, as set out by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE)² and by specific journals
2. work with authors to help facilitate timely publication of data into the public domain
3. work with authors from the outset and throughout the writing process to communicate information that reflects their views and opinions regarding the data, and that the information is accurate, complete and objectively presented
4. ensure that the contributions of individuals who do not specifically qualify for authorship, but who were involved in the development of a publication (for example, professional medical writers and editors), are acknowledged within it
5. adhere to journal and congress requirements to disclose potential conflicts of interest and sources of funding fully and, in agreement with the authors, to share additional requested information (for example, study protocols)
6. keep abreast of changes in international legislation, policies and procedures so that our working practices are in line with current biomedical publishing guidelines

We ensure that all individuals are appropriately trained on these guidelines and are able to advise authors and research sponsors on best practices relating to biomedical publications.

Complete Medical Group Worldwide will **not** work on publications with clients/sponsors who:

1. veto the investigators' right to publish the findings of research or refuse to publish negative or inconclusive data in the peer-reviewed literature
2. overrule the interpretation of the research findings by the investigators
3. selectively report positive endpoints rather than reporting all clinically relevant endpoints
4. fail to clarify where analyses were post hoc and not pre-specified by the statistical analysis plan
5. do not make it clear (via the use of clinical trial identifiers) when the publication is a follow-up from research that has already been published
6. report data in a manner that is misleading or ask for marketing messages to be included
7. will not fully disclose potential conflicts of interest or acknowledge professional medical writing support.



Planning is often required to ensure that publications are developed in an appropriate and timely manner. Where required, Complete Medical Group Worldwide can assist clients/sponsors and study groups with publication planning. The purpose of the publication planning process is to:

1. ensure that authors are involved in the decision-making about when and where the data from a study are disseminated to the medical community via the peer-reviewed literature
2. ensure, through the identification of appropriate congresses and journals, that individuals interested in the research and data will be able to access them in the peer-reviewed literature
3. ensure that timelines allow for authors to interrogate the data fully, interpret their findings, and critique and comment on drafts of the publications
4. identify whether all data can be reported in a single publication or whether the number and importance of the analyses within the study will require more than one publication (and that each publication references the others to ensure that perceptions regarding the evidence base remain accurate)
5. ensure that, when more than one manuscript is being developed from a data-set, the first publication reports the primary efficacy and safety/tolerability endpoints (as defined by the statistical analysis plan) of the entire data-set
6. prevent redundant publications being developed and published.

References

1. Graf C, Battisti WP, Bridges D et al. Good publication practice for communicating company sponsored medical research: the GPP2 guidelines. *BMJ* 2009; 339: b4330.
2. International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE). Uniform requirements for manuscripts submitted to biomedical journals: writing and editing for biomedical publication. Available at: http://www.icmje.org/urm_full.pdf (accessed on 24 May 2011).

Date of issue: 24 May 2011

Previous issue: 10 December 2008

Latest date of next issue: 1 January 2013