

Cold commas

The following phrase was encountered by a medical writer in the course of his work: "... and each void was individually frozen at -20°C immediately after defæcation in the freezer provided."

Such uncomfortable toiletry could be avoided by the use of commas.

A new Declaration of Helsinki

A new Declaration of Helsinki was issued in October 2008. The approval steps leading to the 2008 approved version are available at: <http://www.wma.net/e/ethicsunit/helsinki.htm>.

Thanks to **Debbie Jordan** (mailto:debbiejordan.co.uk) for sending this information

GPP2: New 'Good Publication Practice' Responsible and ethical clinical publications

GPP: A decade later

Good Publication Practice (GPP) [1, 2] is the first port-of-call for publication professionals looking for guidance about publishing clinical and preclinical information, especially when this information has been gathered, analysed, or written with pharmaceutical, biotech or medical device company support.

But consider this: the first ideas for GPP were formed during a retreat of the Council of Biology Editors (now Council of Science Editors or CSE) a decade ago [2, 3].

"When we published GPP we always intended to revise it and keep it up to date but we never found the time or funding for this. While I'm still proud of what GPP has achieved and believe the underlying principles are still relevant today, things have definitely moved on in the 10 years since it was first discussed, and I am delighted that the International Society for Medical Publication Professionals is taking a lead in developing GPP2" says Elizabeth Wager, first author of the original publication.

GPP2 will follow the mission laid out by the original GPP authors and "encourage responsible and ethical publication of the results of clinical trials sponsored by pharmaceutical companies" [2]. Like its predecessor, GPP2 will deliver 'best practice' ethical guidance about peer-reviewed publications and presentations at scientific meetings, as well as recommendations for 'non-peer-reviewed scientific communications' [2]. New sections will provide guidance on recent developments in medical research and reporting, such as clinical trial registration and results disclosure.

You can help

Working with support from the International Society for Medical Publication Professionals [4] (ISMPP) the GPP2 steering committee will open consultation on the first draft of its new guidelines.

"With all that's happened over the years since the publication of GPP, this update could not be more timely. ISMPP is proud to spearhead this initiative, which will serve to strengthen the credibility of industry-sponsored clinical publications. One of the goals of ISMPP is to be involved in initiatives that educate and benefit our members, and this one is certainly high on our list", says Gene Snyder, ISMPP President.

To contribute to this consultation you must have more than 10 years experience in three or more of the following areas:

- Setting publication policies in commercial organisations
- Design, conduct, and reporting of clinical trials
- Legal and regulatory requirements on conducting, registering, and reporting clinical trials publications as part of a clinical development programme
- Common editorial and journal practices, including peer review
- Scientific or medical writing and editing

Chris Graf

ISMPP, Co-Chair, Standards & Best Practices Committee;
Associate Editorial Director, Wiley-Blackwell

Elizabeth (Betts) Field

ISMPP Cofounder; President, Field Advantage Medical Communications

Contribute to GPP2. Contact Chris Graf by email: chris.graf@wiley.com or phone: +44 1865 476 393 no later than 14 November, 2008.

References:

1. <http://www.gpp-guidelines.org/> Accessed 12 September 2008.
2. Wager E, Field E, Grossman L. Good publication practice for pharmaceutical companies. *Curr Med Res Opin.* 2003;19:149-154.
3. Council of Biology Editors is now Council of Science editors, <http://www.councilscienceeditors.org/>. Accessed 12 September 2008.
4. <http://www.ismpp.org/>. Accessed 12 September 2008.