Manuscript Development in the Real World

In an ideal world, a clinical trial would draw to a close, the data analyzed would be quickly completed and quality checked, and the manuscript would be written efficiently and accurately by the lead investigator with input from co-authors (all of whom have impeccable written communication skills and are free of biases that could influence the data). However, in reality, the manuscript and the manuscript review process can be part of the overall plan for a clinical trial. The process of manuscript development is often described as a series of stages, each of which requires careful planning and execution. The diagram below identifies the seven stages of a proper manuscript development process.

Where to Start

The manuscript development process should start well before pen is put to paper or fingers are put to keys, as the case may be. The diagram below identifies the seven stages of a proper manuscript development process.

Stage of Process

1. Objective
2. Conceptualization
3. Assembling the Framework
4. Decision Point
5. Development Plan
6. Review Process
7. Submission

Multitude of Potential Manuscripts

- Author's criteria
- Academicians' preferences
- Editors' goals
- Instructions to authors
- Readers' expectations

Consolidation

- Abstracted
- Peer reviewed
- Published
- Indexable
- Cited

Finalization

- Author's decisions
- Adapting
- Resubmission
- Publication

Initiate Development Process

- Identify and Communicate
- Review
- Outline
- Call-to-Action

Sample Tactical Manuscript Review Process

- Author
- Reviewer
- Editor
- Publisher
- Library
- Authoritative source
- Instruction to authors

Formative

-2. Conceptualization
-3. Assembling the Framework

Execution

-4. Decision Point
-5. Development Plan

Review Process

-6. Review Process

Submission

-7. Submission

Call to Action

- What do you think we should develop?
- What do you want to achieve?
- What do you need to develop it?
- When do we expect to submit?
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