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Review of Online Publication Policies: Pharmaceutical Companies and US Medical Colleges

Donna Simcoe
Sr. Clinical Publications Lead
AstraZeneca LP
Methods

• **Review online publication policies**
  – Top 50 US medical colleges\(^1\) (n=50)
  – Pharmaceutical members of PhRMA.org\(^2\) (n=50)

• **Research**
  – Publication policy available online?
  – Content?
  – Part of overarching policy or standalone?

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2 PhRMA Member Company List. [http://www.phrma.org/member_company_list/](http://www.phrma.org/member_company_list/)
## Methods (cont)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Search Terms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Publication policy?</strong>&lt;br&gt;(first terms searched)</td>
<td>publication(s), publish, policy, guideline(s), manuscript, abstract, poster*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Content of available publication policy</strong>&lt;br&gt;(second terms searched)</td>
<td>author(ship), writer, clinical trial registry, clinical trial data posting, patent, ethics, copyright conflict of interest/disclosure/acknowledg(e or ment)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Overarching policy</strong>&lt;br&gt;*Combination of terms</td>
<td>Publication policy standalone or part of overarching policy?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Publication Policy Results

Number of Companies or Colleges

- Pharmaceutical Company (N=50)
- Medical College (N=50)

Categories:
- Publication Policy
- Clinical Trial Registry
- Data Posting
- Conflict Of Interest
- Author
- Writer
- Copyright
- Patent
- Ethics
- Part of Overarching Policy
Conclusions

More medical schools (68%) had online publication policies than pharmaceutical companies (40%)

- Medical schools - conflict of interest and authorship
- Pharmaceutical companies - clinical trial registry and data results postings
- Overarching policy
  - More than half of medical colleges publication policies (20/34)
  - Nearly all pharmaceutical publication policies (17/20)

Suggestions

- Post publication policy summary on external pharmaceutical company website
- Ask authors for link to institution’s publication policy