Publication steering committee development at a pharmaceutical company: Experience one year post-departmental guidance development

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Abstract

Objective: Provide practical guidance for the development of publication steering committees based on experience at a pharmaceutical company.

Research Design and Methods: In February 2011, the publication group at Shire introduced a publication steering procedure. This procedure was designed to help ensure that publication topics were selected appropriately and that publication plans were developed in a timely manner. In December 2011, a questionnaire was distributed to the publication team to assess their experience with steering committees over the past year.

Results: Sixty-two respondents participated in the survey. The majority of respondents (65%) indicated that they had active steering committees in place. The majority of respondents (74%) indicated that their publication processes had improved as a result of the new publication guidance. The most common reasons for creating a steering committee were to improve the quality of the publication (74%) and to increase the speed of publication (68%).

Conclusions: The development of publication steering committees has had a positive impact on the publication process at Shire. The use of steering committees has helped to ensure that publication topics are selected appropriately and that publication plans are developed in a timely manner. The questionnaire data suggest that the new publication guidance has been effective in helping to improve the publication process at Shire.

Introduction

Background: The need to develop publication steering committees has become increasingly important in the pharmaceutical industry. These committees are designed to help ensure that publication topics are selected appropriately and that publication plans are developed in a timely manner. The development of publication steering committees has been shown to have a positive impact on the publication process at many companies.

Objectives: The objectives of this study were to assess the experience of publication steering committees at Shire and to assess the impact of the new publication guidance on the publication process.

Methods: In December 2011, a questionnaire was distributed to the publication team to assess their experience with steering committees over the past year. The questionnaire included questions about the creation and use of steering committees, the impact of the new publication guidance, and the impact of the steering committees on the publication process.

Results: Sixty-two respondents participated in the survey. The majority of respondents (65%) indicated that they had active steering committees in place. The majority of respondents (74%) indicated that their publication processes had improved as a result of the new publication guidance. The most common reasons for creating a steering committee were to improve the quality of the publication (74%) and to increase the speed of publication (68%).

Conclusions: The development of publication steering committees has had a positive impact on the publication process at Shire. The use of steering committees has helped to ensure that publication topics are selected appropriately and that publication plans are developed in a timely manner. The questionnaire data suggest that the new publication guidance has been effective in helping to improve the publication process at Shire.