



Certified Medical Publication Professional™ (CMPP™)

Certification Examination Study Guide

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Introduction to the CMPP™ Credential

The Certified Medical Publication Professional™ (CMPP™) credential is a professional certification awarded by the International Society for Medical Publication Professionals (ISMPP). Established to represent a common standard for the profession, the certification recognizes individuals who demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and abilities required to practice and support the highest standards of integrity and transparency in medical publications and scientific communications.

The CMPP™ credential certifies:

- Expertise as a medical publication professional
- Proficiency in good publication practices
- Commitment to ethical and transparent data dissemination standards
- Leadership in upholding and fostering integrity and excellence in medical publications

Earning the CMPP credential provides several professional benefits, including:

- **Professional recognition:** Signals validated expertise to colleagues, employers, clients, and other stakeholders.
- **Career development:** Supports continued professional growth and may strengthen opportunities for advancement.
- **Industry credibility:** Represents leadership and dedication to the highest standards of integrity, transparency, and ethical behavior.
- **Extensive knowledge base:** Codifies deep understanding of best practices, guidelines, and ethical standards.

Professionals in 30 countries across six continents currently hold the CMPP™ credential, reflecting its broad international relevance and its growing value within the medical publications/communications profession.

This study guide is intended to support candidates preparing for the CMPP™ certification examination. It should be used in conjunction with the CMPP Candidate Handbook to fully prepare for the examination experience.

Examination Format

The CMPP™ examination is a 150-question, multiple-choice, computer-based examination delivered in English. Candidates are allotted three hours to complete the examination, either at an approved test center or online via remote proctoring technology.

Examination questions are distributed equally across the 3 competency domains. Each question carries equal weight, and there is no penalty for an incorrect response. Because the examination emphasizes the application of knowledge, candidates should prepare to interpret scenarios and select the most appropriate course of action rather than rely solely on memorization of facts.



The CMPP examination is administered twice each year during month-long testing windows in March and September. During an active administration window, approved candidates may select an available examination date and delivery method. Testing may be completed at a Pearson VUE test center or online via OnVUE, Pearson’s remote proctoring technology.

Examination Content

The content of the examination is based on key duties of a medical publication professional in the 3 defined competency domains.

- Domain 1: Develop a Publication Plan
- Domain 2: Implement a Publication Plan
- Domain 3: Foster Ethical and Compliant Behavior in Publications

All examination questions are developed from the duties and knowledge areas associated with these domains.

Competency Domain	Associated Duties
Develop a Publication Plan	• Research the disease area and therapeutic landscape • Identify data to be published • Identify and assess each audience’s informational and educational needs • Define the scope of the plan • Manage the Publication Steering Committee • Apply scientific communication platforms • Develop the tactical plan • Monitor evolving trends
Implement a Publication Plan	• Identify and engage authors/contributors for publication • Follow appropriate writing, review, and approval processes • Manage administrative aspects of publication plans • Track metrics of individual publications and the overall plan • Monitor evolving trends
Foster Ethical and Compliant Behavior in Publications	• Maintain knowledge of relevant standards, guidelines, and position statements • Apply standards of ethical conduct • Ensure appropriate disclosures are made • Ensure contributors are acknowledged • Monitor evolving trends



Exam Preparation Resources

The best way to prepare for the CMPP exam is through day-to-day practical experience, working alongside experienced medical publication professionals and participating in ongoing continuing education. As you begin creating an individualized study plan, you will find this guide provides a comprehensive – but not exhaustive – list of useful resources for exam candidates.

Candidate Handbook

The [Candidate Handbook](#) is the authoritative source for all information pertaining to the certification exam. Candidates should review it carefully before applying and again before examination day. It includes:

- Eligibility requirements
- Testing options and venues
- Application procedures and fees
- Scheduling process
- Preparation guidance
- Scoring and digital badges
- Program policies and conduct rules

Study References and Documents

The critical reference materials identified by the CMPP™ Program include foundational sources that candidates should understand and be able to apply. These materials reflect commonly used standards, guidance, and professional resources within medical publication practice.

Supplemental references are organized across the 3 competency domains. They provide additional depth in areas where a candidate requires further study. Because many professional standards apply across more than one domain, individual resources may be relevant to multiple sections of the examination blueprint.

Candidates should not limit their preparation to the listed references. ISMPP members may also benefit from archived ISMPP U webinars in the [ISMPP Learning Hub](#) and selected conference presentations available through the [ISMPP Member Center](#).

[Critical Reference List](#) — Core source materials that candidates should know and be prepared to apply.

[Supplemental Reference List](#) — Additional resources that provide deeper context on selected topics.

[Useful Websites](#) — Websites of professional associations, regulators, publishers, and other relevant organizations, with which candidates should familiarize themselves.

[Commonly Used Acronyms](#) — Definitions of commonly used acronyms categorized by associations and organizations, clinical terminology, and publication-related terminology.



CMPP™ Question Bank

The [CMPP™ Question Bank](#) is an online, subscription-based practice tool designed to familiarize candidates with the style, structure, and rigor of questions on the certification exam. Features include:

- Unlimited access to 150 retired examination questions
- A full-length, 150-question practice examination
- Short, targeted domain-specific quizzes
- Timed and untimed practice modes
- Progress reports with color-coded visual analytics
- More than 100 digital flashcards covering clinical terminology, publication standards and guidelines, principles of good clinical practice, and key organizations

Other Helpful Resources

Additional CMPP™ Program resources provide context on examination development, scoring, professional value, and effective preparation. including:

- ISMPP 2026 MedComms Day webinar *Inside the CMPP Exam: Development, Scoring, and Smart Preparation*. Recording [available](#).
- ISMPP In Plain Cite 2026 podcast [CMPP: Behind the Exam Curtain](#)
- ISMPP In Plain Cite 2025 podcast [From Credibility to Career Growth: The CMPP™ Advantage](#).

CMPP™ Mentor Program

Volunteer CMPP™ mentors support approved examination candidates by:

- Discussing the professional value of the CMPP™ credential
- Providing practical guidance on examination preparation
- Assisting candidates in identifying knowledge gaps and using available study resources efficiently

The CMPP™ Mentor Program includes 100 mentors across the United States, United Kingdom, Europe, and the Asia-Pacific region. Candidates are matched with mentors in the same region, similar industry, and with the same native language whenever possible.

After an examination application has been approved, a candidate may request a mentor by submitting the Request a Mentor application in LearningBuilder.



Sample Questions

1. Which of the following activities would be acceptable prior to publication of the full primary manuscript?

- A. Publication of data in a journal supplement
- B. Public distribution of reprints
- C. Publication of data in a review article
- D. Publication of an abstract

2. Which of the following is included in a Publication Steering Committee charter?

- A. Specific target journals for submission
- B. Roles and responsibilities of the members
- C. Proposed author lists based on the enrolling investigators
- D. Data readouts from the ongoing trials

3. An author and the study sponsor disagree on interpretation of data for a secondary endpoint for the trial. What is the MOST appropriate resolution for this situation?

- A. The sponsor's interpretation should appear in the publication
- B. The data in question should not be reported
- C. The author's interpretation should appear in the publication
- D. Scientific debate should determine a mutually acceptable solution

4. According to the CONSORT checklist, baseline demographics and clinical characteristics should be reported in which section of a clinical manuscript?

- A. Appendix
- B. Discussion
- C. Results
- D. Methods

5. Which statement is used worldwide to guide manuscript development in order to improve the reporting of randomized, controlled trials?

- A. PRISMA
- B. CONSORT
- C. SPIRIT



D. STROBE

6. Which organization was specifically developed as a forum for publishers and editors of peer-reviewed journals?

- A. ISMPP
- B. COPE
- C. ICMJE
- D. EMWA

Answer Key: 1.D, 2.B, 3.D, 4.C, 5.B, 6.B.

Preparation Strategy Recommendations

Effective preparation requires both content review and a deliberate study strategy. The following recommendations can help candidates use their time efficiently, strengthen applied knowledge, and approach the examination with confidence.

- **Review all examination policies:** Read the CMPP Candidate Handbook in full, with particular attention to scheduling and rescheduling, candidate identification requirements, testing policies and conduct rules, and examination-day requirements.
- **Understand the examination blueprint and format:** Become familiar with the 3 competency domains and the duties associated with each. Use the blueprint to identify strengths and prioritize weaker areas.
- **Create a structured study plan:** Set a realistic schedule that allocates time to each competency domain, includes periodic review, and reserves time for practice questions.
- **Consider a study group:** Working with other candidates can promote accountability, provide exposure to different perspectives, and strengthen your ability to explain and apply key concepts.
- **Use multiple study resources:** Combine the Candidate Handbook, critical references, supplemental materials, ISMPP educational content, the CMPP™ Question Bank, and mentor support as appropriate.
- **Emphasize application over memorization:** Practice interpreting professional scenarios, weighing competing considerations, and selecting the response that best reflects ethical and compliant publication practice.
- **Practice with examination-style questions:** Use timed and untimed practice to strengthen pacing, identify recurring knowledge gaps, and become comfortable with the format and level of reasoning expected.

Summary

In preparing for the CMPP™ examination, candidates should combine a structured study plan with practical experience, careful review of key policies and resources, and regular practice applying knowledge to realistic



scenarios. By focusing on understanding rather than memorization and making full use of the available study tools and professional support, candidates can approach the exam with greater confidence and readiness. Ultimately, earning the CMPP credential reflects a commitment to excellence, integrity, and ethical practice in medical publications/communications.