Good Publication Practice for Communicating Company-Sponsored Medical Research: GPP3

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This updated Good Publication Practice (GPP) guideline, known as GPP3, builds on earlier versions and provides recommendations for individuals and organizations that contribute to the publication of research results sponsored or supported by pharmaceutical, medical device, diagnostics, and biotechnology companies. The recommendations are designed to help individuals and organizations maintain ethical and transparent publication practices and comply with legal and regulatory requirements. These recommendations cover publications in peer-reviewed journals and presentations (oral or poster) at scientific congresses. The International Society for Medical Publication Professionals invited more than 3000 professionals worldwide to apply for a position on the steering committee, or as a reviewer, for this guideline. The GPP2 authors reviewed all applications (n = 241) and assembled an 18-member steering committee that represented 7 countries and a diversity of publication professions and institutions. From the 174 selected reviewers, 94 sent comments on the second draft, which steering committee members incorporated after discussion and consensus.

The resulting guideline includes new sections (Principles of Good Publication Practice for Company-Sponsored Medical Research, Data Sharing, Studies That Should Be Published, and Plagiarism), expands guidance on the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors’ authorship criteria and common authorship issues, improves clarity on appropriate author payment and reimbursement, and expands information on the role of medical writers. By following good publication practices (including GPP3), individuals and organizations will show integrity; accountability; and responsibility for accurate, complete, and transparent reporting in their publications and presentations.

Throughout the guideline, we use the term “publications” to include the full range of formats published in peer-reviewed journals (for example, original research articles, short reports, reviews, or letters to the editor) and “presentations” to include abstracts, posters, and slides for oral presentations at scientific congresses. “Sponsors” are organizations that provide primary support, which may include funding, for a study. “Publication professionals” are professional medical writers, publication planners, and publication managers, usually working either in or for companies. This guideline does not cover regulatory documents, medical education programs, or marketing or advertising materials, all of which are regulated or accredited by specific national or regional authorities.

**Methods**

In August 2013, an e-mail invitation was sent to more than 3000 professionals from around the world, including International Society for Medical Publication Professionals (ISMPP) members (n = 1630); persons invited to review GPP2 (n = 288); and a distribution list from the Medical Publishing Insights and Practices initiative that included approximately 1400 investigators, researchers, and journal editors. Candidates were invited to volunteer as members of the GPP3 steering committee or reviewers (or both). Eight GPP2 authors screened the applications (n = 241). Of 118 steering committee applicants, 11 were chosen and joined 7 of the former GPP2 authors to provide a broad range of perspectives (from 7 countries, including employees of pharmaceutical, biotechnology, medical device, and...