ENVISION THE PATIENT

Good Publication Practice (GPP) Guidelines

SUMMARY FOR PATIENT AUTHORS



What is the purpose of this summary?

This summary can help patients understand the 'rules' of becoming an author of a research report (eg. a presentation at a medical conference or a publication in a medical journal). The summary was created with patients and one of the authors of the GPP guidelines.

WHAT ARE THE GPP GUIDELINES?

The GPP guidelines help authors prepare research reports that can be trusted. These guidelines focus on how to report research funded by healthcare companies. You can read the full guidelines, for free, at: http://annals.org/aim/fullarticle/2424869/good-publication-practice-communicating-company-sponsored-medical-research-gpp3

WHAT IS A PATIENT AUTHOR?

Patients can provide unique and valuable input to research and research reports



A patient author represents patients' views in the report and meets the 4 requirements to become an author (table).

REQUIREMENTS TO BE AN AUTHOR	HAVE YOU MET THIS REQUIREMENT?	
	Yes	No
 Provide a valuable contribution to the report (eg, use your experience as a patient to help design the study, or to help identify and describe the research findings that are most important to patients) 		
2. Provide useful comments at each stage of writing the report		
3. Read and approve the final version of the report		
4. Be willing to take responsibility for the accuracy and integrity of the report and help to answer questions about the report		



What are your rights as a patient author?

- To read and discuss information (eg, the research protocol) that will help you understand the research findings.
- To share your skills (eg, experience as a patient) to help analyse, interpret, and report research findings.
- To suggest conferences and journals you think would be suitable for sharing the research findings. More conferences and journals are encouraging patient authors and patient-focused research.
- To be paid to cover costs of being an author (eg, travel to author meetings). Authors are not usually paid for writing time.
- To ask for help from a publication professional who is trained to help authors prepare reports and to follow relevant guidelines. Help is not guaranteed, but you can ask.

What are your responsibilities as a patient author?

- To sign a written Authorship Agreement at the start of the project. The Agreement should describe your rights and responsibilities and state that the healthcare company cannot interfere with authors' rights.
- To report the research findings in a complete, accurate, non-biased, and timely way.
 Whether you think the findings are good, bad, or uncertain, you must report the findings.
- To provide useful feedback at each stage of preparing the report (eg, reading each draft, sharing your comments) and to approve the final version of the report.
- To follow GPP guidelines and other reporting guidelines relevant to your work.
- To respect the privacy of patients involved in the research and include a thank you to the patient group in the presentation or publication.
- To report your name, your role, and any financial or nonfinancial relationships you have that could be perceived as influencing the presentation or publication.

KEY POINTS

Patients can offer unique and valuable input to research reports. If you are asked to be a patient author on a research report, use this summary to help you:



Meet the requirements to be an author





Know your author rights





Know your author responsibilities

