GPP 2022 in Practice: Insights and Trends in Guidelines Adoption and Implementation

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BACKGROUND

- Good publication practice (GPP) guidelines reflect the ongoing efforts to strengthen core ethical principles and refine practices to meet the demands of a rapidly evolving field of biomedical publications[1]
- GPP 2022, the latest iteration, expands its scope on several topics, including authorship criteria, transparency, publication extenders such as plain -language summaries of publications (PLS-Ps), and patient-centric approaches, among others[1]
- With more than two years of GPP 2022 publication, this survey was conducted to identify its impact

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- To assess awareness and implementation of the GPP 2022 guidelines
- Identifying pain points, supporting the broader uptake and application of the guidelines

METHODS

- **Study Design:** A cross-sectional survey was designed comprising 16 multiple-choice and 3 open-ended questions
- The survey was disseminated (March 1–22, 2024) through various channels, including LinkedIn, the International Society for Medical Publication Professionals (ISMPP), the International Society of Managing and Technical Editors (ISMTE), and the European Medical Writers Association (EMWA) networks

RESULTS

Demographics

- 100 participants from 32 countries responded
- The survey included 53.0% (n=53) researchers, 32.0% (n=32) medical communication professionals and the remaining were practicing healthcare professionals (HCPs) and students
- More than half of our survey participants (67.0%, n=67)were familiar with GPP 2022. We considered only the participants familiar with the guidelines for further analysis
- We addressed missing responses in our survey using listwise deletion, resulting in varying 'n' values across different answers.

Key Findings

Ethical Considerations and Transparency

- About 56.0% (n=34) of participants felt that GPP 2022 was partially effective in addressing ethical considerations, while 31.0% (n=19) considered it to be completely effective **(Figure 1)**
- About 26.0% (n=16) of the participants agreed that GPP 2022 had impacted their approach to medical publications **(Figure 2)**

Figure 1: Effectiveness of GPP 2022 in addressing ethical considerations

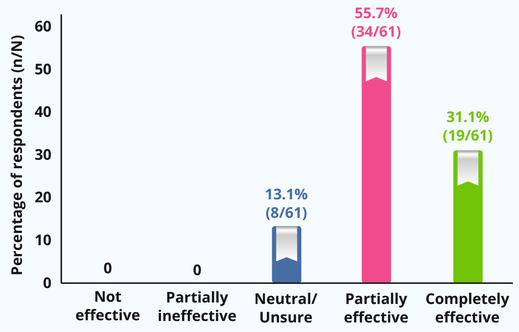
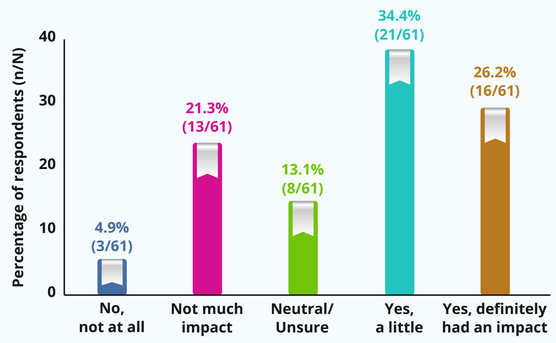


Figure 2: Impact of GPP 2022 on data-sharing and transparency

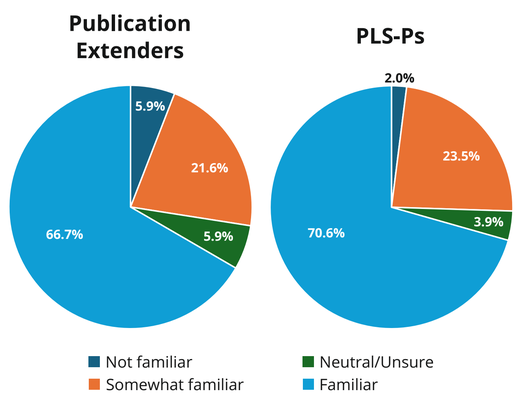


n, number of respondents in individual categories; N, Total number of respondents who responded

Publication Extenders

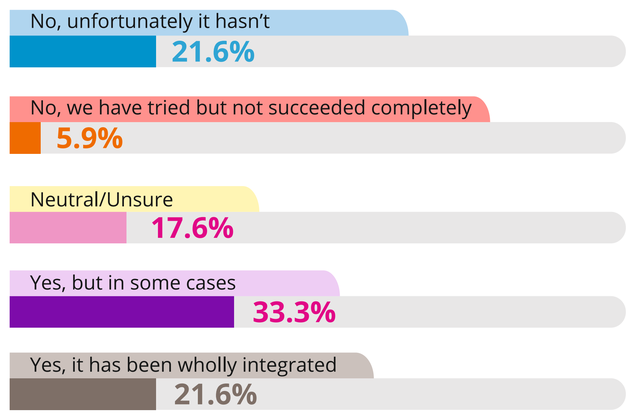
- 67.0% (n=34) of the respondents were familiar with publication extenders while 71.0% (n=36) were familiar with PLS-Ps **(Figure 3)**
- 45.0% (n=23) reported incorporation of publication extenders into their research communication strategies
- Nearly 67.0% (n=34) and 83.0% (n=42) of participants opined that publication extenders and PLS-Ps added value in disseminating research findings respectively

Figure 3: Familiarity of respondents with publication extenders including PLS-Ps



Patient-centricity

- About 22.0% (n=11) of respondents indicated the full integration of a patient-centric approach into publication development and planning within their organization
- However, only 6.0% (n=3) reported fully involving patients or advocacy groups throughout the publication process



Key findings from open ended questions

Any innovative approach to creation or use of PLS?
- Majority involved in the creation adhering to journal guidelines
- Use of AI in developing PLS
- Intended audience to review PLS

Use of AI in scientific Publication to be documented or disclosed?
- Full disclosure and transparency
- Documentation in methods or acknowledgement section
- Validated AI bioinformatic tool used in publication

Gaps in GPP 2022 guidelines?
- Clarification and harmonization of guidelines on publication extenders
- Stricter accountability for authorship
- Caution about AI hallucinations
- Case studies and real-life examples
- More detail on patient involvement

CONCLUSIONS

Our survey shows that GPP 2022 is widely adopted among medical publication professionals globally, but additional outreach may be helpful from groups like ISMPP and Medical Affairs Professional Society (MAPS) in the countries and regions where uptake and familiarity with GPP are lower

Although most respondents were aware of publication extenders and PLS-Ps, there is a need for clarification and harmonization of guidelines on these simplifiers

Future Avenues

- Development of harmonized ethical guidelines for AI in research, ensuring responsible experimentation, securing participant consent, and addressing risks and harms effectively
- A clearer definition of PLS-Ps, categorizing them as secondary publications in accordance with ICMJE criteria
- Greater emphasis on strategies for patient involvement, including their active participation in the development and review of the publications

References:

1. Lisa M. DeTora, Dikran Toroser, Angela Sykes, et al. Good Publication Practice (GPP) Guidelines for Company-Sponsored Biomedical Research: 2022 Update. Ann Intern Med.2022; 175:1298-1304. doi:10.7326/M22-1460

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