



OPTIMISING TRAINING FOR MEDICAL WRITERS – The Role of EMWA

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The views, thoughts, and opinions expressed here belong to the author of this presentation and do not necessarily represent the official position of EMWA.

Speaker's bio

Alison Rapley worked as a medical writer in the contract research industry for over 20 years. During this time, she prepared and reviewed numerous regulatory documents, including clinical study reports, protocols, CTD documents, DSURs, and PSURs. She has a degree in physiology and biochemistry and a postgraduate diploma in library and information studies and has worked with large pharmaceutical companies, small biotechnology firms, and generics companies in Europe, India, and the United States.

Alison has provided training in regulatory writing for most of her career, with a special interest in drug safety, medical ethics and medical information. She has presented workshops for EMWA since 2001 and was President of EMWA from 2016-2017. She is a current member of EMWA's Education and Professional Development Committee. Since 2014 Alison has provided freelance medical writing training and consultancy to clients worldwide.



What is EMWA?

The European Medical Writers Association (EMWA) represents, supports and trains medical writers and communicators in all sectors of the profession in Europe and beyond.

We are a **not for profit organisation** that is run for its members by its members

We have over 1,000 members from 39 different countries. These include academics and professionals working both in-house or freelance, for pharmaceutical and medical communications companies, research institutes, and in the field of scientific journalism.

EMWA provides educational and social networking opportunities for its members. It offers a professional development programme that includes a broad variety of medical writing workshops. These are run at EMWA conferences which are held twice a year.

Skill Requirements and Training Options for Medical Writers

Skills

- Writing expertise
 - Document expertise
 - Scientific expertise
 - Project management expertise
- and lots more!

Training options

- Academic courses
- On the job training
- Professional training programmes such as that provided by EMWA
- On-line training courses
- Commercial training courses

What is the Professional Development Programme?

The **EMWA Professional Development Programme (EPDP)** provides high-quality training for medical writers through a broad range of workshops.

All EPDP workshops are approved by the EMWA Professional Development Committee (EPDC) and are given by people with extensive professional experience in the topic. Typically they are interactive training sessions, including group exercises, with time for questions and discussion. Most have a pre-workshop assignment and all have an assessed post-workshop assignment. The element of assessment involved in completion ensures that EMWA credits and the EMWA certificate represent real attainments, and are a valuable addition to a medical writer's CV.

Workshops are run at the EMWA conferences in spring and autumn each year.

Subject Coverage

There are over 130 different workshops in the programme, covering subjects that span all areas of medical writing, including related topics such as statistics, health economics and cross-cultural communication. They are aimed at writers of all levels from new and inexperienced writers up to long standing writers. For-credit workshops are divided into 6 areas of expertise.

	Foundation level	Advanced level
Drug Development and PV	28	22
Language and Writing	7	9
Medical Communication	21	7
Medical Science	10	1
Professional Techniques	19	12
Medical Devices	2	2



Training is aimed at both new and experienced writers

Foundation level workshops are aimed at those who are new to a topic, or who have a moderate level of experience in it. They have a maximum 32 participants and last 3 or 3.5 hours.

Advanced level workshops cover topics that are likely to be of interest to more experienced writers, or deal with foundation level topics in greater depth. Advanced workshops have a maximum of 20 participants and always last 3.5 hours. Some advanced workshops are designated as 'master classes'. These are highly interactive workshops with a maximum of 12 participants.

Workshop Credits

Writers who attend an EPDP workshop **and** successfully complete the assignments can obtain an EPDP credit which can be added to their c.v. as proof of commitment to continued professional development.

The EMWA Certificate

The EMWA certificate

You need 8 credits from different workshops to qualify for a certificate. Each credit can only count once towards 1 certificate. Certificates list the workshops for which credits have been obtained.

Foundation certificates

An EMWA foundation certificate is awarded for 8 credits from foundation workshops.

Advanced certificates

An EMWA advanced certificate is awarded for 8 credits from advanced workshops (including master classes run for credit). You do not need to have a foundation certificate to register for advanced workshops.

It is important to note that an EMWA certificate is not an endorsement by EMWA of a person's professional competence. Holding an EMWA certificate does not entitle a writer to claim that they are 'EMWA certified' or a 'certified medical writer' or similar statement.

Professional Development outside the EPDP

EMWA's Webinar Programme provides regular webinars for medical writers to gain professional development skills and hear about the latest initiatives in the medical writing world. These are short training opportunities given live and also recorded and available to members via the website.

EMWA's Expert Seminar Series is aimed at experienced medical writers, heads of medical writing departments, and industry leaders from other disciplines who want to learn about the latest developments that affect the medical writing industry and play a role in shaping the world of medical writing.

EMWA Symposia

Each symposium is a one-day event organised during the spring conference with presentations and discussions by experts on the latest regulations and industry trends.

Special Interest Groups and Professional Quarterly Journal

THANK YOU

If you want further information about EMWA or medical writing, or would like to become a member, please go to the website at www.emwa.org or contact our head office at

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