Writing for Publication masterclass

on behalf of the RCN Education Forum steering committee

Facilitators:
Dr Sarah Burden, Leeds Beckett University
Dr Debbie Porteous, Northumbria University
Aims of the workshop

- Consider motivations and decision to publish
- Illustrate how to turn a conference poster or presentation into an article
- Explore ‘blockages and barriers’ to writing and how to overcome them

And hopefully engender confidence to have a go...... and be successful....
Consider motivations and decision to publish
Why publish?

- Expectation of job role
- Contribute to practice evidence base
- Disseminate research findings
- Share practice / education innovations
- Improve service delivery and patient care
- Other??
What do you want to publish?

Type of article:
- opinion piece
- Debate paper
- Review – literature / systematic / concept analysis
- Practice development – innovation and evaluation
- Original research
- Research methodology
Where do you want to publish?

- Who do you want to read it?
- Is this for a UK and/or international audience?
- Does the impact factor of a journal matter?
- Open access journals?
How to turn a conference poster or presentation into an article
Turning a conference presentation into an article

- Use of notes function on PowerPoint presentation to provide structure for start of article
- Can be written post conference, though many advocate writing ‘rubbish first draft’ at same time as producing poster / presentation
- Advantage of latter – possible chance to discuss with conference delegates / editorial staff at conference to obtain feedback and check target publication

Activity: examining the steps in the process – and associated materials

Select target publication(s) and review author guidance

Or ‘rubbish first draft’ and then check against some selected journals – consider audience / impact / what they are publishing and what they have recently published (last 3-4 issues)

Review with collaborators or critical friend(s)

On-line submission

Documents:

- Nurse Researcher – author guidance
- Conference presentation
- Manuscript draft for submission
Activity: examining the steps in the process – and associated materials

- Feedback from editor and reviewers
- Rewrite.... (this does not guarantee acceptance) and tight turnaround
- Resubmission – to include manuscript and list changes in response to reviewer’s comments
- Accepted.... Galley proofs to final proof (all time constrained)
- Published

Documents:

- Reviewer’s comments and response
- Final proof
Overcoming barriers and blockages to writing
Getting down to writing...what helps?

- Can you only write in one place?
- Can you only write at a particular time of day?
- How much time do you need to write?
- How often should you write?
- Should you write alone or collaboratively?
Trigger questions to help you get started

......when you haven’t a clue where to start

(with acknowledgement to Professor Sally Brown)

What am I doing?
Why am I doing it?
What has been done in the past?
What were the effects?
Why was this unsatisfactory?
What have I tried that worked?

What didn’t work so well?
What have I learned from my success and failures?
What can I deduce from what I have done?
What do I plan to do next?
Just write............ Nothing is ever perfect

- Rubbish first draft...
- Tell the story... perhaps oral recording to capture ideas and flow....
- Switch off your ‘internal editor’
- Set and share targets...(with supportive colleagues)

A piece of writing is abandoned at the least damaging point....
And here’s to success