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Writing for Publication masterclass

on behalf of the RCN Education Forum steering committee

Facilitators:
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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
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

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