

VSHP Clinical Article Student Author Guidance

Clinical writing is a great opportunity that provides several benefits, including insight into health-system and clinical pharmacy issues/updates, experience evaluating and summarizing medical literature, practice in communication among pharmacists, and mentorship from a current health-system pharmacist. The Virginia Society of Health-System Pharmacists publishes a monthly newsletter that includes a clinical pharmacy article. The article can be written by a pharmacy student, pharmacy resident, or VSHP pharmacist member. This document provides guidance for articles written by student pharmacists.

Student pharmacist author responsibilities:

- Articles written by student pharmacists must be co-authored by a pharmacy resident or pharmacist. It is the student pharmacist's job to identify a pharmacist (faculty member, preceptor, etc) that is willing to co-author the article.
- The student pharmacist and co-author should work together to identify an article topic. Topics should be relevant to health-system pharmacy, timely, and can span from administrative to clinical. Types of articles accepted include reviews, journal article evaluations, new medication updates, clinical controversies, guidelines or updates in therapeutics, etc. Topics cannot be similar to or the same as articles previously published in the VSHP newsletter.
- The majority of the article should be written by the student pharmacist.
- It is helpful for the student pharmacist to create an outline for the article that can be agreed upon by the co-author. This provides structure and aligns expectations of the content.
- The article should be the original work of the authors. It's helpful to read previously published newsletter articles to get the gist of writing a newsletter article, but the content should be driven by the student pharmacist. Include pertinent primary literature.

Co-author responsibilities:

- The role of the co-author is to provide clinical writing guidance and editorial support. The majority of the article should be written by the student pharmacist.
- Co-authors should consider the academic position of the student (e.g. P1 – P4). For many P1 – P3 students, this may be their first experience in clinical writing and they may or may not have taken courses such as evidence-based medicine or scholarship in pharmacy.
- While it is not required to meet one-on-one with the student pharmacist during this process, it may be helpful.
- Co-authors should be available to the student pharmacist via email or other means of communication and respond to requests for edits or questions within a timely manner. A general timeline agreed upon by the student and pharmacist is helpful to set expectations up front.

Article requirements:

- 2-4 pages, single-spaced, 10-12 point professional font
- Sections include: title, authorship, article, tables/figures (optional but encouraged), and references.
- Tables and figures should be original and not reprinted without permission from another source.
- References should be cited in the article text in numerical sequence and identified by superscript Arabic numbers. References should be cited using AMA or NLM style.

Editing:

- Articles should be submitted by the student pharmacist at an agreed upon date 1-2 weeks prior to the VSHP newspaper publication date. Articles may be edited and sent back to the student pharmacist for final revisions.