

P4 – Working Across Therapeutic Areas – Boon or a Challenge for MWs?

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INTRODUCTION

Specialisation in “document writing” versus a “Therapeutic Area (TA)” has been a debatable topic within Medical Writing. A growing trend of working across TAs is widening the horizons for MWs and helping them stay relevant within the industry. However, reluctance to work across TAs within the MW community still exists. Hence, we decided to deep dive on this topic.

METHODS

Informal chats and formal surveys targeted regulatory MWs at different career levels in different settings to seek out the benefits versus hurdles of working across TAs and the skills required to succeed.

RESULTS

- Survey revealed that it's challenging to work across TAs, especially early in career. MWs like the familiarity and safety of the known topic/TA knowledge, teams, and environment.
- TA knowledge is not a must but an added advantage.
- Many MWs noted that working across TAs is rewarding and becomes easier as one gains experience and is a career booster.
- Few noted that MWs can quickly deepen and widen experience by working across TAs but requires extra effort.
- Agility, adaptability, critical-creative thinking, researching ability, influencing skills and a continuous learning mindset complimentary to strong writing proficiency, interdisciplinary communication, and scientific literacy are required to excel as a cross-TA writer.

CONCLUSIONS

MWs are writing experts. Specific transferable skillsets help MWs to excel in a cross-TA environment and stay relevant. Though it may not be difficult for skilled MWs to utilize transferable skills across TAs, few like the comfort of the known and tested, while many are embracing the diversity and challenge.