AMWA 2019 COMPENSATION SURVEY

Highlights for Full-time Employed Medical Communicators

Highest Level of Education

- 46% PhD or Other Advanced Degree
- 32% Master’s
- 21% Bachelor’s

Years of Experience

- More than 10 years: 42%
- 6-10 years: 21%
- 2-5 years: 31%
- Fewer than 2 years: 7%

Employer Type

- Pharmaceutical company: 20%
- Clinical or contract research organization: 14%
- Medical communications company: 14%
- Biotechnology company: 9%
- Medical device company: 8%
- Health care organization/provider: 7%
- Medical school or university: 7%

Median Gross Income for Full-time Employed Medical Communicators

By Type of Work

- Editing: $80,560
- Writing: $107,000

By Area of Work

- Regulatory Writing: $122,000
- Marketing/Advertising: $95,000
- Scientific Publications: $92,500
- Medical Research/Grants: $79,500

Most Common Benefits Received

- Health insurance: 93%
- Retirement savings plan: 85%
- Life and/or disability insurance: 82%
- Professional development: 64%
- Pre-tax spending programs: 63%
- Annual bonus: 80%

Income information is based on 2018 data reported in US dollars by 845 full-time employed respondents, including those working outside the US. All income data are presented as medians. Income varies according to many factors, including years of experience, level of education, employment level, employer type, and area of work. Percentages were rounded. Totals may not equal 100%. Not all respondents answered all questions.
AMWA 2019 COMPENSATION SURVEY

Highlights for Full-time Freelance Medical Communicators

Highest Level of Education

- 38% PhD or Other Advanced Degree
- 37% Master’s
- 23% Bachelor’s

Years of Medical Communication Experience

- 72% More than 10 years
- 12% 6-10 years
- 16% 5 years or less

Most Common Recurring Expenses

- Professional membership dues and subscriptions
- Tax accountant
- Health insurance
- Office utilities, equipment, supplies
- Education/Professional development

Primary Client Type

- Pharmaceutical company: 21%
- Medical communications company: 19%
- Medical education company: 9%
- Biotechnology company: 8%
- Medical mktg/advertising/PR agency: 6%
- Medical device company: 5%
- Health care organization/provider: 5%

Median Gross Income for Full-time Freelance Medical Communicators

By Primary Type of Work

- Writing: $151,000
- Editing: $77,500

By Primary Area of Work

- Continuing Education: $77,000
- Scientific Publications: $103,000
- Sales Training: $106,000
- Marketing/Advertising: $114,500
- Regulatory Writing: $203,000

Income information is based on 2018 data from 164 respondents who identified as full-time freelances (32 hours or more per week), with a weekly average of 42.5 billable plus nonbillable hours. Respondents include freelances working outside of the US, who reported data in US dollars. All income data are presented as medians. Income varies according to many factors, including years of experience, level of education, and number of hours worked. Percentages were rounded. Totals may not equal 100%. Not all respondents answered all questions.