What do medical writers do?

Medical writers are involved in the process of creating document designs about science and medicine. They work with other medical professionals to help create or take previously compiled documents and prepare them for a specific audience. Medical writers are the educating phase between a medical innovation and the learning audience.

Some examples of the types of documents medical writers can prepare are:

- “Patient education brochures, news articles, Web content, and books for the general public
- Journal articles and continuing education monographs for health care professionals
- Regulatory documents for government agencies
- Grant proposals for research scientists and institutions
- Sales training and marketing materials for the pharmaceutical industry”

(https://www.amwa.org/default.asp?id=420)

Who are medical writers?

“Medical communicators may be writers, editors, proofreaders, supervisors, project managers, media relations specialists, educators, and more! As part of their jobs, writers and editors may also do research, statistical analysis, publication layout and design, or fact-checking.”

(https://www.amwa.org/default.asp?id=435)

The medical writers may take part in the scientific research since most have higher academic degrees in medical sciences. In this case they would more likely be working directly for a pharmaceutical or biomedical research company.
Job Description as a Medical Writer – found on AMWA.org

As a Medical Writer you will work within scientific affairs, and closely with project management, biostatistics, regulatory & other functional groups to provide support of biopharmaceutical post-marketing studies and registries.

- Writing and preparation of scientific and regulatory documents such as study concept documents, protocol synopses and full protocols, interim and final clinical study reports, safety reports and other periodic reports
- Contribution to abstract, presentation and manuscript planning and preparation
- Management of medical writing activities and timelines with all relevant stakeholders, including external clients and internal project teams
- Coordination to quality assurance review of documents and maintenance of audit trails/version control
- Conduct of literature searches as appropriate for publication/document development

Visuals Used/Created/Edited/etc.:

American Medical Writers Association
| Logo, Website heading | The American Medical Writers Association label. Blue with white text, AMWA seems to be a mashed together Times New Roman. The written American Medical Writers Association looks Arial. The logo seems to speak professionalism or similar dependable qualities that a medical writer may strive for. What is relevant is many writers will get the chance to make their own logos if they are freelance. Personal or company logos make it easier for others to distinguish their work amongst many collaborative studies. | The top of the American Medical Writers Association website. [www.amwa.org](http://www.amwa.org). The heading will always stay consistent between different content on their website. The logo on the annual journal is all black text with a white background. This is better for hard copy because of the excellent contrast on white paper and not the electric blue you see on the computer screen. |
Medical writers need visual assistance to show data of the topics at hand. Pie graphs are excellent visuals to show results of any science issue or percentages in general.

This pie graph is found in an AMWA presentation on the areas of work in medical writing.

Line graphs are important because many of the studies will take months or years before the writing begins. Line graphs show progression over time and will give significant comparisons to other studies.

This line graph shows growing number of members in the American Medical Writers Association over the years. Just as studies can be compared, they can compare this with other organizations or associations.

**Conclusions reached:** Many people become confused when learning or wondering about medical writing. This is partly because it constitutes different levels of education geared towards different audiences. When a medical breakthrough is discovered it takes at least 15-20 of processing and approval to reach the general public. Medical writers take on a large role in these 15-20 years by informing, educating, writing grants for further research and government regulatory documents. Writers will continue to work in marking and sales writing to hospitals and buyers. Writing for non-medical professionals is also important to raise awareness and educate patients. The medical writing field has recently been expanded and is continuing to expand as a market and recognizable career. I have learned that whatever the case study, medical writing involves compiling information data, organizing the information, interpreting the correct themes and significant data, and presenting the information to meet the correct audience. Medical writing is not always a “show and tell” process and understanding the right points is very important. Writers need to know how to think critically and scientifically to emphasize key points because not all documents are conclusive but may lead another medical discovery. Furthermore, ethics in medical writing has become increasingly stressed as a common practice with more documents and inconclusive research studies.
Sources consulted: The American Medical Writers Association website (www.amwa.org) serves as an excellent informative resource on the medical writing field. Membership is available for professionals and a student membership is available for a discounted price. According to a December 2008 report of “The Centerwatch Monthly” from clinicaltrialstoday.com, the medical writing market has more than doubled its size from 2003 increasing from an estimated $345 million to $649 million.