Webinar Q&A – Writing Abstracts

Which category does my case belong to if it fits into multiple categories?

Sometimes a student will use a clinical vignette to show the problem, so a background for a quality improvement study may be an important observation of a negative outcome in a patient or a group of patients. However, the main goal is to improve things in the hospital. This would still belong in the Quality-Advocacy-Public Policy category even if it uses a case as an example

Meta analyses and systematic review can be important aspects to moving a field forward. Where would systematic reviews fit into a poster session? What is the proper format expected for abstracts of literary reviews for the NYACP meeting?

A systematic review and meta-analysis both require analysis. Those would qualify under research because both categories are requiring retrospective research and analysis.

If you could clarify any additional advice, specifically for beginners, what would be your recommendations for the top Do’s and the top Don’ts?

Students who are new to abstract writing must get help. Don’t be afraid to reach out to your clerkship director or the faculty mentor who you worked on the case with. When your Clerkship Director signs off on the abstract, don’t let them get away with just saying “Looks great!” Reach out and say this is your first time writing an abstract, and tell them that you would love their advice on how to improve the abstract. Once you start the process you can do a lot of it by email, you may not have to meet in person that many times, but you can send the abstracts back and forth and have a final meeting before you submit.

Looking at the slides and the examples can also be very useful for what to do and you can use those as a starting point.