@Work Magazine
2024 Articles and Columns Proposal Guide

The Disability Management Employer Coalition (DMEC) is seeking new, unpublished columns and articles for @Work magazine in 2024. You can submit a proposal for a column or an article. There is no limit to the number of column/article proposals you can submit. **This year’s proposal form requires a free DMEC account to get started.** You will be prompted to enter your DMEC account information or create a free account when you begin. [Access the proposal form.](#)

All columns and articles are **awarded competitively based on the value and insight they provide** to DMEC members. **We encourage you to include a unique approach and as many specifics as possible with your submission.**

**Proposals are due by Friday, Sept. 1, 2023.** Questions should be submitted to Heather Grimshaw, DMEC communications manager, at hgrimshaw@dmec.org.

**Columns**

**Columns appear in all five issues of the magazine, and proposals must include summaries for each issue.** We are seeking content with a defined focus — from authors who have a unique area of expertise and who provide specific examples on the topics they discuss, along with resources and actionable tools, tips, and strategies. High-level topics/ideas usually do not meet these requirements.

Your column need not map directly to each issue’s theme (listed below), but we suggest that some columns highlight or incorporate the issue’s theme.

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<th>Issue</th>
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<td>January-March 2024</td>
<td>Employer Compliance</td>
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<td>April-May 2024</td>
<td>Mental Health and Well-Being</td>
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<td>June-August 2024</td>
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<td>September-October 2024</td>
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**Columns are 550 words in length (including references), and we encourage the same bylined author to appear on all five column articles.** Coauthors can be added for a magazine issue if applicable. DMEC may request changes to your proposal to ensure the content is relevant and useful to members.
Proposal Components:

- Column title (should be short and descriptive of the overall concept for your column)
- Bylined author name, professional designations, title, company, email address, and social media handles
- Coauthor(s) name, professional designations, title, company, email address, and social media handles (if applicable)
- Internal review requirements (if applicable)
- Name, title, company, and email address for the person(s) who will review DMEC content edits
- Column perspective (how is the content unique from what has been previously published)
- Column summaries (total of five)

Articles

Articles appear in one issue of the magazine and range in length from 600 to 1,500 words, including references. We recommend no more than three authors per article. Choose among six article types for your article proposal:

1. **Feature Article**: A feature article is between 1,000 and 1,500 words, and it provides a broader focus on a legislative or industry trend that affects most employers. A feature article can also highlight a comprehensive integration effort by a leading organization. It is recommended that authors include return on investment (ROI) information.

2. **Program Showcase**: A program showcase article is between 600 and 1,000 words, and it describes a program, details a problem the program solves, and provides outcomes from the program that showcases ROI.

3. **Return-to-Work (RTW) Showcase**: A RTW showcase article is between 600 and 1,000 words, and it describes how to deal with various factors that can complicate RTW, including medical status, mental health, personal issues, and challenges in the job or work environment. This type of article should also feature investments required for solutions as well as ROI information whenever possible.

4. **Compliance Showcase**: A compliance showcase article is between 600 and 1,000 words, and showcases policies, tools, and strategies an organization or client uses to address a compliance challenge.

5. **Employer Perspective**: An employer perspective article is between 600 and 1,000 words, and it covers best practices, professional development tips, methods to demonstrate value, etc. culled from your unique experience as an absence and disability management professional.

6. **Expanded Perspectives**: An expanded perspectives article is between 600 to 1,200 words, and it offers additional perspectives on and increases awareness of integrated absence management trends and challenges. Expanded perspectives articles are available to members and nonmembers and can be shared with colleagues and through social media channels.
If your article proposal is chosen, the DMEC editor will talk with you about issue placement based on the theme, space, and other factors.

Proposal components:

- Article type
- Article title
- Bylined author name, professional designations, title, company, email address, and social media handles
- Coauthor(s) name, professional designations, title, company, email address, and social media handles (if applicable)
- Internal review requirements (if applicable)
- Name, title, company, and email address for the person(s) who will review DMEC content edits
- Article summary (include a list of relevant links to supporting information/resources)
- Learning objectives (cite three things members will learn or do differently)
- Tools and/or resources that will be included in the article

@Work Magazine Requirements

If your column and/or article proposal is accepted, the following requirements will apply:

- Content published by DMEC is intended to educate members and widen the perspectives of those working in the field of integrated absence management. All editorial content in @Work magazine must include sources. Ideally, columns will have 1-5 sources, and articles will have 1-10 sources.
  - External sources are preferred, and authors should avoid only referencing research or surveys conducted by their organizations.
  - Sources may include an author’s experience as long as it is cited and includes as many specifics as possible.
  - Insufficient sources will be flagged during the review process, and authors may be asked to revise copy.
- All @Work articles and columns published by DMEC are reviewed extensively by four groups, and authors may receive requests to expand on topics, provide sources as noted above, and rewrite copy. This is a thorough process to ensure that content published by DMEC is uniquely valuable to DMEC members.
  - The editorial review process includes the DMEC editor, the DMEC Editorial Advisory Group (comprised of DMEC members), a copy editor, and the DMEC leadership team.
  - DMEC shares suggested changes with authors several times prior to publication to ensure comfort level with revisions. Authors and internal review teams should be prepared for these rounds of review and requested edits — typically with one-week turnaround times.
In order to effectively conduct the review process, DMEC requires contact information (name, designations, title, company, email) for all authors. Authors will be copied on all communications from DMEC if a marketing or public relations professional is designated as the editorial point person. We request social media handles as well to help raise awareness of the author's investment of time and energy.

- All content published by DMEC must abide by the DMEC style guide. While we appreciate that many companies have their own style guides, this content will be edited to align with DMEC style guides to ensure a consistent reader experience.
- Information shared in articles and columns should be as specific as possible in order to “show” rather than “tell” members about the topics. DMEC members value examples, tools, and resources that assist them with implementing ideas and best practices. High-level overviews are not as valuable to DMEC members as specific examples of challenges faced successfully. Content should illustrate the unique challenges that absence management professionals face and provide tools and resources to help them achieve success.
- Product or service promotion is not allowed in any articles or columns.
- DMEC articles and columns do not include company disclaimers.