



## **@Work Magazine**

### **2026 Articles and Columns Proposal Guide**

DMEC is seeking new, unpublished content for @Work magazine in 2026. If you are interested in submitting a proposal for a column, article(s), or both, please [complete this proposal form](#). All content is *awarded competitively based on the value and insight it delivers* to DMEC members.

Proposals must be submitted through the [portal](#) by the end of the day on Monday, Sept. 8, 2025. Email questions to Heather Grimshaw, DMEC Communications Manager, at [hgrimshaw@dmecc.org](mailto:hgrimshaw@dmecc.org). Please ask your legal team to review the contract prior to submitting your proposal.

### **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 disability and absence management. Articles and columns that appear in @Work magazine must include 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 content published by DMEC is reviewed extensively by four groups, and authors may receive requests to expand on topics, provide sources as noted above, and rewrite copy.
  - This editorial review process includes the DMEC editor, the DMEC Editorial Advisory Group, a copy editor, and the DMEC Education team.
  - DMEC shares suggested changes with authors several times prior to publication to ensure comfort level with the revisions. Authors and internal review teams should be prepared for these rounds of review and requested edits.
  - In order to effectively conduct the review process, DMEC will require contact information (name, designations, title, company, email, and social media handles) for authors. Authors will be copied on communications from DMEC if a marketing or public relations professional is designated as the editorial point person.

- All content published by DMEC must abide by the DMEC style guides. 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. It is important to provide specific examples and avoid high-level content. DMEC members are experts in the field and while we strive to provide information for professionals at all career levels, it is important to provide detailed information and examples in submitted content.
- Product or service promotion is not allowed in any articles or columns.
- Editorial content published in the DMEC *@Work* magazine will not include disclaimers.

## 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 will provide specific examples of 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.

Issue	Theme
January-March 2026	Employer Compliance
April/May 2026	Mental Health & Well-Being
June-August 2025	Integrated Disability and Absence Management
September/October 2026	Americans with Disabilities Act/Return to Work
November/December 2026	Technology & Innovation

Columns are 550 words in length, including references, and we encourage the same bylined author to appear on all columns. Coauthors can be added for an issue if applicable. DMEC may request changes to proposals to ensure 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, designations, title, company, email, and social media handles (if applicable)
- Internal review requirements (if applicable)

- Name, title, company, and email address for people who will review DMEC content edits
- Column perspective (how is 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:** Articles are 1,000 to 1,500 words and provide 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.
2. **Program Showcase:** Articles are 600 to 1,000 words and describe a program, details a problem that the program solves, and provides some outcomes from the program that showcase return on investments.
3. **Return-to-Work (RTW) Showcase:** Articles are 600 to 1,000 words and describe 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 include employer investments required for solutions.
4. **Compliance Showcase:** Articles are 600 to 1,000 words and showcase policies, tools, and strategies an organization or client uses to address a compliance challenge.
5. **Employer Perspective:** Articles are 600 to 1,000 words and cover 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:** Articles are 600 to 1,200 words and offer additional perspectives on and increases awareness of integrated absence management trends and challenges. Expanded perspective articles are available to members and nonmembers and can be shared with colleagues and through social media channels.

If you have supporting information or resources, please include links in the article summary. If your article proposal is selected for the magazine, the DMEC editor will discuss the best issue for publication based on the theme, space, and other factors.

Proposal components:

- Article type
- Article title
- Bylined author name, title, professional designations, title, company, email address, and social media handles

- Co-author(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 people who will review DMEC content edits
- Article summary (include any relevant links to supporting information/resources)
- Learning objectives (cite three things will members learn or do differently)
- Tools and/or resources that will be included in the article