

Critical Appraisal of a Meta-analysis or Systematic Review

Appraisal questions	Yes	Unclear	No	
1. <i>Did the study address a clearly focused question?</i>				
2. <i>Was a comprehensive literature search conducted using relevant research databases (i.e. ABI/INFORM, Business Source Premier, PsycINFO, Web of Science, etc.).</i>				
3. <i>Is the search systematic and reproducible (e.g. were searched information sources listed, were search terms provided)?</i>				
4. <i>Has publication bias been prevented as far as possible (e.g. were attempts made at collecting unpublished data)?</i>				
5. <i>Are the inclusion and exclusion criteria clearly defined (e.g. population, outcomes of interest, study design)</i>				
6. <i>Was the methodological quality of each study assessed using predetermined quality criteria?</i>				
7. <i>Are the key features (population, sample size, study design, outcome measures, effect sizes, limitations) of the included studies described?</i>				
8. <i>Has the meta-analysis been conducted correctly?</i>				not applicable
9. <i>Were the results similar from study to study?</i>				
10. <i>Is the effect size practical relevant?</i>				not applicable
11. <i>How precise is the estimate of the effect? Were confidence intervals given?</i>				
12. <i>Can the results be applied to your organization?</i>				

Adapted from Crombie, The Pocket Guide to Critical Appraisal; the critical appraisal approach used by the Oxford Centre for Evidence Medicine, checklists of the Cochrane Centre, BMJ editor's checklists and the checklists of the EPPI Centre.

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