

Quality Criteria Checklist: Review Article

Handout B

Symbols Used

- +** **Positive:** Indicates that the report has clearly addressed issues of inclusion / exclusion, bias, generalizability, and data collection and analysis.
- **Negative:** Indicates that these issues have not been adequately addressed.
- ∅** **Neutral:** Indicates that the report is neither exceptionally strong nor exceptionally weak.

Quality Criteria Checklist: Review Articles

RELEVANCE QUESTIONS					
1.	Will the answer, if true, have a direct bearing on the health of patients?	Yes	No	Unclear	N/A
2.	Is the outcome or topic something that patients / clients / population groups would care about?	Yes	No	Unclear	N/A
3.	Is the problem addressed in the review one that is relevant to dietetics practice?	Yes	No	Unclear	N/A
4.	Will the information, if true, require a change in practice?	Yes	No	Unclear	N/A
If the answers to all of the above relevance questions are “Yes”, the report is eligible for designation with a plus(+) on the Evidence Quality Worksheet, depending on answers to the following validity questions.					
VALIDITY QUESTIONS					
1.	Was the question for the review clearly focused and appropriate?	Yes	No	Unclear	N/A
2.	Was the search strategy used to locate relevant studies comprehensive? Were the databases searched and the search terms used described?	Yes	No	Unclear	N/A
3.	Were explicit methods used to select studies to include in the review? Were inclusion / exclusion criteria specified and appropriate? Were selection methods unbiased?	Yes	No	Unclear	N/A
4.	Was there an appraisal of the quality and validity of studies included in the review? Were appraisal methods specified, appropriate, and reproducible?	Yes	No	Unclear	N/A
5.	Were specific treatments / interventions / exposures described? Were treatments similar enough to be combined?	Yes	No	Unclear	N/A
6.	Was the outcome of interest clearly indicated? Were other potential harms and benefits considered?	Yes	No	Unclear	N/A
7.	Were processes for data abstraction, synthesis, and analysis described? Were they applied consistently across studies and groups? Was there appropriate use of qualitative and / or quantitative synthesis? Was variation in findings among studies analyzed? Were heterogeneity issues considered? If data from studies were aggregated for meta-analysis, was the procedure described?	Yes	No	Unclear	N/A
8.	Are the results clearly presented in narrative and / or quantitative terms? If summary statistics are used, are levels of significance and / or confidence intervals included?	Yes	No	Unclear	N/A
9.	Are conclusions supported by results with biases and limitations taken into consideration? Are limitations of the review identified and discussed?	Yes	No	Unclear	N/A
10.	Was bias due to the review’s funding or sponsorship unlikely?	Yes	No	Unclear	N/A
MINUS / NEGATIVE (-) If most (six or more) of the answers to the above validity questions are “No”, the review should be designated with a minus (-) symbol on the Evidence Quality Worksheet.					
NEUTRAL (∅) If the answer to any of the first four validity questions (1 – 4) is “No”, but other criteria indicate strengths, the review should be designated with a neutral (∅) symbol on the Evidence Worksheet.					
PLUS / POSITIVE (+) If most of the answers to the above validity questions are “Yes” (must include criteria 1, 2, 3 and 4), the report should be designated with a plus symbol (+) on the Evidence Worksheet.					