Evidence-Based Medicine Skills

Step 3: Critical Appraisal of Evidence

Come Visit Us!

For further research assistance access the Wahlstrom Library website via the myUB Portal.

Ask a Librarian via Chat: Available when the Library is open through the Library website.

E-mail a Librarian: reference@bridgeport.edu

Call a Librarian: 203-576-4747

Walk-ins welcome, no appointment needed!
Using Critical Appraisal Checklists

In Evidence-Based Medicine (EBM), articles describing clinical research studies need to be appraised by healthcare practitioners seeking answers to clinical questions. However, not every clinician is an expert in clinical study design.

Fortunately, checklists exist that allow clinicians to quickly double-check an article’s internal and external validity. These checklists have been created by institutions that carry out EBM research.

In the Wahlstrom Library we have available several critical appraisal checklists formulated by the University of Glasgow.

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To find them, go to the library homepage. Click Evidence-Based in the Research Guides section. On the next page click Evaluating Research Articles Using Critical Appraisal Checklists.

Each checklist asks several questions involving elements that should be found in a quality research study. This includes questions about internal validity (was the study designed and carried out correctly), as well as external validity (are study participants similar to the patients described in the clinical question).

The more positive answers, the more likely the research study is reliable. Ultimately though, each clinician must make a judgment call regarding which articles - and evidence - to consider.

Handouts on the first 3 steps in the Evidence-Based Medicine process are available in the library. All of the information is also available on our website in the Evidence-Based section.

If you have additional questions or require further assistance, please contact a librarian using one of the methods on the front of this handout.