Evidence-Based Medicine Skills
Step 3: Critical Appraisal of Evidence

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!
Using Critical Appraisal Checklists

In Evidence-Based Medicine (EBM), evidence consisting of articles describing clinical research studies need to be appraised by health care practitioners as they seek to answer clinical questions. However, not every clinician is an expert in clinical study design.

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

Here at the Wahlstrom Library, we have made available the following critical appraisal checklists formulated by the University of Glasgow:

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<th>Decision Analysis</th>
<th>Harm</th>
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<tr>
<td>Diagnosis</td>
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<td>Economic Evaluation</td>
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To find them, go to the library homepage accessed through your myUB Portal. On the homepage click on Evidence-Based in the Research Guides section. On the next page, click on Evaluating Research Articles Using Critical Appraisal Checklists.

Each checklist asks several questions about elements that are (or should be) found in a well-done research study. This will include questions about a study’s internal validity (was the study designed and carried out correctly), as well as questions about the study’s external validity (are the patients who participated in the study similar enough to the patient(s) you are now asking a clinical question about).

In general, the more yes answers on your checklist, the more likely it is that the article describing a particular research study is reliable. In the end, 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, and all of the information is also available on our website in the Evidence-Based section.

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