



CRITICAL APPRAISAL SKILLS Making sense of evidence about clinical effectiveness

10 questions to help you make sense of a review

These questions consider the following:

Are the results of the review valid? (SECTION A)

What are the results? (SECTION B)

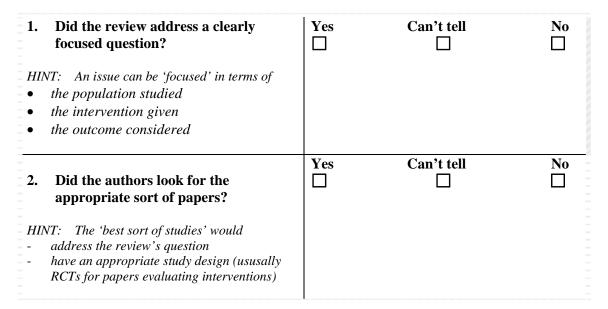
Will the results help locally? (SECTION C)

A number of italicised prompts are given after each question. These are designed to remind you why the question is important. There will not be time in the small groups to answer them all in detail!

These materials were developed by the Critical Appraisal Skills Programme (CASP) and we thank them for permission to use the materials.

A/ Are the results of the review valid?

Screening Questions



Is it worth continuing?

Detailed questions

3. Do you think the important, relevant studies were included?	Yes	Can't tell	No
 HINT Look for which bibliographic databases were used follow up from reference lists personal contact with experts search for unpublished as well as published studies search for non-English language studies 			
4. Did the review's authors do enough to assess the quality of the included studies?	Yes	Can't tell	
HINT The authors need to consider the rigour of the studies they have identified. Lack of rigour may affect the studies' results ("All that glisters is not gold" Merchant of Venice – Act II Scene?)			
5. If the results of the review have been combined, was it reasonable to do so?	Yes	Can't tell	No
 HINT: Consider whether the results were similar from study to study the results of all the included studies are clearly displayed the results of the different studies are similar the reasons for any variations in results are discussed 			

B/ What are the results?

6. What are the overal reviews?	l result of the
HINT: Consider	
- if you are clear about the	e review's 'bottom
line' results:	11 : 6 : 4 >
 what these are (numerical how were the results exp 	
ratio etc.)	jiesseu (ININI, Ouus
7. How precise are the	results?
-	
HINT: Look at the confidence	ce intervals, if given

C/Will the results help locally?

8.	Can the results be applied to the local population?	Yes	Can't tell	No □	
	NT: Consider whether the patients covered by the review could be sufficiently different to your population to cause concern your local setting is likely to differ much from that of the review				
9.	Were all important outcomes considered?	Yes	Can't tell		No
10.	Are the benefits worth the harms and costs?				
	n if this is not addressed by the review, what you think?				