

## 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Has publication bias been prevented as far as possible (e.g. were attempts made at collecting unpublished data)?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.