

Introduction to Critical Appraisal

This course is intended for RWT and WHT colleagues (clinical and non-clinical) and students on placement who are new to the subject, need a revision session or just generally want to develop an interest in Critical Appraisal.

Course Description:

This session gives an intensive overview of the skills needed and resources available for critical appraisal and will provide ideas on how these can be used on return to the workplace. The course focuses on the theoretical principles of critical appraising an article, rather than hand-on practice.

What is Covered:

- What is critical appraisal and why it is important.
- Detailed theory of how to conduct a critical appraisal.
- Review of online resources supporting critical appraisal.
- Types of bias in research studies.
- Impact of predatory journals, preprints and AI on the validity of a study.

Course Objectives:

By the end of the session, you will be able to:

- Understand what is meant by “critical appraisal” and its role in Evidence-Based Practice.
- Understand the importance of checklists for critical appraisal.
- Develop awareness of the different types of critical appraisal.
- Identify different types of study design and bias in research reporting.
- Select the appropriate tool to appraise different types of study designs.
- Develop awareness of predatory journals, preprints and AI and how they impact on research.

Learning Methods:

- Presentation.
- Discussion.
- Handouts – circulated electronically.

Pre Course Requirements:

- An understanding of Evidence-Based Practice and are aware of the main resources.

Who Can Attend:

- Any employee of the Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust (RWT) or Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust (WHT) that are undertaking research clinical audit or guideline development.
- Employees employed by GP practices that have integrated with RWT that are undertaking research clinical audit or guideline development.
- Staff employed by RWT and working for the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR)
- Students on placement at RWT or WHT.

Duration: 2 hours

Delivery: Group Face-to-Face or via MS Teams.

Follow on Sessions:

These sessions build on the basic theory of critical appraisal, including hands-on practice of appraising a study.

- Introduction to Critical Appraisal of Qualitative Research
- Introduction to Critical Appraisal of a Randomised Control Trial
- Introduction to Critical Appraisal of a Mixed Methods Study