

Integrative Studies

Overview

Did the review address a clearly focused question?
Were the criteria used to select articles for in-conclusion appropriate?

Practice Guidelines

Were the options and outcomes clearly specified?
Did the guideline use an explicit process to identify, select, and combine evidence?

Decision Analysis

Did the analysis faithfully model a clinically important decision?
Was valid evidence used to develop the baseline probabilities and utilities?

Economic Analysis

Were two or more clearly described alternatives compared?
Were the expected consequences of each alternative based on valid evidence?

Each of these guides makes an implicit or explicit reference to investigators' need to evaluate the validity of the studies that they are reviewing to produce their integrative article. The validity criteria one would use in making this evaluation would depend on the area being addressed (therapy, diagnosis, prognosis, or harm) and are those that are presented in the part of the table dealing with primary articles.