# CRITICAL APPRAISAL WORKSHEET 1
## AN ARTICLE ON THERAPY

This worksheet should be submitted along with the completed Submission Form to your supervisor. It is based on the articles on therapy from the JAMA series on Users’ Guides to the Medical Literature. Reading these articles should be helpful to you in working through this worksheet as it pertains to your key article(s). Feel free to make photocopies. You can also print off additional copies from the CFPC Web Site (www.cfpc.ca/cme/pearls/pearlmain.asp).

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**Author(s):** 

**Short title:** 

**Journal/Year/Volume/ Pages:**

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## A. ARE THE STUDY RESULTS VALID?

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Was the assignment of patients to treatment groups truly randomized?</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>□ Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>□ No</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>□ Can’t tell</td>
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<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. Were all patients who entered the study accounted for appropriately at the end?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i) Is the number randomized the same as in results? (Try a best case/ worse case scenario.)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>ii) Were patients analysed in the groups they were allocated to at the start of the study?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>□ Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>□ No</td>
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<td></td>
<td>□ Can’t tell</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3. Were patients, physicians, and those doing the assessments &quot;blind&quot; to treatment?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>□ Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>□ No</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>□ Can’t tell</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4. Was similarity between groups documented?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>i) Is there a table of baseline characteristics?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ii) Were differences controlled for in the analysis?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>□ Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>□ No</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>□ Can’t tell</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5. Aside from the intervention, were the groups treated in the same way?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>□ Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>□ No</td>
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<td></td>
<td>□ Can’t tell</td>
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</table>
### B. WHAT WERE THE RESULTS?

1. How large was the treatment effect?

2. How precise was the estimate of the treatment effect?

### C. CAN THE RESULTS BE APPLIED TO YOUR PATIENT(S)?

1. Can the results be applied to my patient (care)?
   - Are study patients similar to your patient?
     - Yes
     - No
     - Can’t tell

2. Were all clinically important outcomes reported?
   - Were the most important outcomes used?
   - Yes
   - No
   - Can’t tell
   - Were quality of life outcomes used? Assessment of adverse effects?
     - Yes
     - No
     - Can’t tell

3. Are the likely treatment benefits greater than the potential harms and costs?
   - Yes
   - No
   - Can’t tell

### CONCLUSIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The results or recommendations are valid (from A).</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Can’t tell</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The results are clinically important (from B).</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Can’t tell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The results are relevant to my practice (from C).</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Can’t tell</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
This worksheet should be submitted along with the completed Submission Form to your supervisor. It is based on the articles on diagnostic tests from the JAMA series on Users' Guides to the Medical Literature. Reading these articles should be helpful to you in working through this worksheet as it pertains to your key article(s). Feel free to make photocopies. You can also print off additional copies from the CFPC Web Site (www.cfpc.ca/cme/pearls/pearlmain.asp).

Author(s): 
Short title: 
Journal/Year/Volume/ Pages: 

### A. ARE THE STUDY RESULTS VALID?

1. Was there an independent "blind" comparison with a reference standard?  
   - [ ] Yes  
   - [ ] No  
   - [ ] Can't tell

2. Did the patient sample include an appropriate spectrum of patients to whom the diagnostic test will be applied in clinical practice?  
   - [ ] Yes  
   - [ ] No  
   - [ ] Can't tell

3. Did the results of the test being evaluated influence the decision to perform the reference standard?  
   - [ ] Yes  
   - [ ] No  
   - [ ] Can't tell

4. Were the methods for performing the test described in sufficient detail to permit replication?  
   - [ ] Yes  
   - [ ] No  
   - [ ] Can't tell
## B. WHAT WERE THE RESULTS?

1. Consider the pre-test and post-test possibilities.
   i) Are likelihood ratios for the test results presented or data necessary for their calculation provided?  
      - Yes
      - No
      - Can't tell

## C. CAN THE RESULTS BE APPLIED TO YOUR PATIENT(S)?

1. Will the reproducibility of the test result and its interpretation be satisfactory in my setting?  
   - Yes
   - No
   - Can't tell

2. Are the results applicable to my patient?  
   - Yes
   - No
   - Can't tell

3. Will the results change my management?  
   - Yes
   - No
   - Can’t tell

4. Will patients be better off as a result of the test?  
   - Yes
   - No
   - Can’t tell

## CONCLUSIONS

The results or recommendations are valid (from A).  
- Yes
- No
- Can’t tell

The results are clinically important (from B).  
- Yes
- No
- Can’t tell

The results are relevant to my practice (from C).  
- Yes
- No
- Can’t tell
CRITICAL APPRAISAL WORKSHEET 3

AN ARTICLE ON PROGNOSIS OR HARM

This worksheet should be submitted along with the completed Submission Form to your supervisor. It is based on the articles on prognosis and harm from the JAMA series on Users’ Guides to the Medical Literature. Reading these articles should be helpful to you in working through this worksheet as it pertains to your key article(s). Feel free to make photocopies. You can also print off additional copies from the CFPC Web Site (www.cfpc.ca/cme/pearls/pearlsmain.asp).

Author(s):  
Short title:  
Journal/Year/Volume/Pages:

A. ARE THE STUDY RESULTS VALID?

1. Was there a representative and well-defined sample of patients at a similar point in the course of the disease?  
   - Yes  
   - No  
   - Can’t tell

2. Was follow-up sufficiently long and complete?  
   - Yes  
   - No  
   - Can’t tell

3. Were objective and unbiased outcome criteria used?  
   - Yes  
   - No  
   - Can’t tell

4. Was there adjustment for important prognostic factors?  
   - Yes  
   - No  
   - Can’t tell
### B. WHAT WERE THE RESULTS?

1. How large is the likelihood of the outcome event(s) in a specific period of time?
   
2. How precise are the estimates of likelihood? (Consider 95% C.I.)

### C. CAN THE RESULTS BE APPLIED TO YOUR PATIENT(S)?

1. Were the study patients similar to my own?
   - Yes
   - No
   - Can’t tell

2. Are the results useful for reassuring or counselling patients?
   - Yes
   - No
   - Can’t tell

### CONCLUSIONS

- **The results or recommendations are valid (from A).**
  - Yes
  - No
  - Can’t tell

- **The results are clinically important (from B).**
  - Yes
  - No
  - Can’t tell

- **The results are relevant to my practice (from C).**
  - Yes
  - No
  - Can’t tell
CRITICAL APPRAISAL WORKSHEET 4

AN OVERVIEW, REVIEW OR META ANALYSIS ARTICLE

This worksheet should be submitted along with the completed Submission Form to your supervisor. It is based on the article on overviews from the JAMA series on Users’ Guides to the Medical Literature. Reading this article should be helpful to you in working through this worksheet as it pertains to your key article(s). Feel free to make photocopies. You can also print off additional copies from the CFPC Web Site (www.cfpc.ca/cme/pearls/pearlmain.asp).

Author(s): ____________________________________________
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<th>A. ARE THE STUDY RESULTS VALID?</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Did the overview address a focused clinical question?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Can’t tell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Were the criteria used to select articles for inclusion appropriate?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Can’t tell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Is it unlikely that important relevant studies were missed?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Can’t tell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Was the validity of the included studies appraised?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Can’t tell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Were assessments of studies reproducible?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Can’t tell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Were the results similar from study to study?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Can’t tell</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### B. WHAT WERE THE RESULTS?

1. What are the overall results of the review?

2. How precise were the results?

### C. CAN THE RESULTS BE APPLIED TO YOUR PATIENT(S)?

1. Can the results be applied to my patient (care)?
   - Yes
   - No
   - Can’t tell

2. Were all clinically important outcomes considered?
   - Yes
   - No
   - Can’t tell

3. Are the benefits worth the harms and costs?
   - Yes
   - No
   - Can’t tell

### CONCLUSIONS

The results or recommendations are valid (from A).
- Yes
- No
- Can’t tell

The results are clinically important (from B).
- Yes
- No
- Can’t tell

The results are relevant to my practice (from C).
- Yes
- No
- Can’t tell
CRITICAL APPRAISAL WORKSHEET 5
A CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINE

This worksheet should be submitted along with the completed Submission Form to your supervisor. It is based on the articles on clinical practice guidelines from the JAMA series on Users’ Guides to the Medical Literature. Reading these articles should be helpful to you in working through this worksheet as it pertains to your key article(s). Feel free to make photocopies. You can also print off additional copies from the CFPC Web Site (www.cfpc.ca/cme/pearls/pearlmain.asp).

Author(s): ________________________________
Short title: ________________________________
Journal/Year/Volume/Pages: ________________________________

A. ARE THE STUDY RESULTS VALID?

1. Were all important options and outcomes clearly specified? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Can’t tell

2. Was an explicit and sensible process used to identify, select and combine evidence? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Can’t tell

3. Was an explicit and sensible process used to consider the relative value of different outcomes? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Can’t tell

4. Is the guideline likely to account for important recent developments? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Can’t tell

5. Has the guideline been subject to peer review and testing? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Can’t tell
## B. WHAT WERE THE RESULTS?

1. Are practical, clinically important, recommendations made?

2. How strong are the recommendations?

3. What is the impact of uncertainty associated with the evidence and values used in the guidelines?

## C. CAN THE RESULTS BE APPLIED TO YOUR PATIENT(S)?

1. Is the primary objective of the guideline consistent with your objective?  
   - [ ] Yes  
   - [ ] No  
   - [ ] Can’t tell

2. Are the recommendations applicable to your patients?  
   - [ ] Yes  
   - [ ] No  
   - [ ] Can’t tell

## CONCLUSIONS

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