

## Critical Reading/Appraisal Guidance

*In evaluating the usefulness and relevance of a publication it is essential that you ask a range of questions about its validity.*

*Applying the following questions will assist you in that evaluation.*

Is the content of the publication you are evaluating relevant to the subject you are examining?

Does the publication deal with its subject and the aims of the study in a clear manner?

Does the author take proper account of the related literature on the subject?

Is the methodology used in the study clear and appropriate?

Where statistical methods are utilised in the study, are they appropriate?

Where data is being presented is it based on the methodology and is it clearly presented

Are the outcomes or conclusions of the study clearly demonstrable and reasonable?

Are the outcomes or conclusions of the study relevant to the work of the Mid Western Health Board?

**If you answer “No” to any of these questions you may wish to consider whether or not the study should be discarded.**

More advanced critical and appraisal questions are available and excellent examples for the following information types can be consulted at <http://hebw.uwcm.ac.uk>

- Systematic review
- Randomized controlled trial
- Another interventional study (e.g. before –and- after design)
- Observational study (e.g. cohort, case control)
- Additional questions for a qualitative study
- Economic analysis