

Quality Criteria Checklist: Review Articles
(Revised January 24, 2003)

RELEVANCE QUESTIONS		
1. Will the answer if true, have a direct bearing on the health of patients?	Yes	No
2. Is the outcome or topic something that patients/clients/population groups would care about?	Yes	No
3. Is the problem addressed in the review one that is relevant to dietetics practice?	Yes	No
4. Will the information, if true, require a change in practice?	Yes	No
<p><i>If the answers to all of the above Relevance Questions are "Yes," the report is eligible for designation with a plus (+) on the Evidence Quality Worksheet, depending on answers to the following Validity Questions.</i></p>		
VALIDITY QUESTIONS		
1. Was the research question clearly focused and appropriate?	Yes	No
2. Was the search strategy used to locate relevant studies comprehensive? Were the databases searched and the search terms used described?	Yes	No
3. Were explicit methods used to select studies to include in the review? Were inclusion/exclusion criteria specified and appropriate? Were selection methods unbiased?	Yes	No
4. Was there an appraisal of the quality and validity of studies included in the review? Were appraisal methods specified, appropriate and reproducible?	Yes	No
5. Were specific treatments/interventions/exposures described? Were treatments similar enough to be combined?	Yes	No
6. Was the outcome of interest clearly indicated? Were other potential harms and benefits considered?	Yes	No
7. Were processes for data abstraction, synthesis and analysis described? Were they applied consistently across studies and groups? Was there appropriate use of qualitative and/or quantitative synthesis? Was variation in findings among studies analyzed? Were heterogeneity issues considered? If data from studies were aggregated for meta-analysis, was the procedure described?	Yes	No
8. Are the results clearly presented in narrative and/or quantitative terms? If summary statistics are used, are levels of significance and/or confidence intervals included?	Yes	No
9. Are conclusions supported by results with biases and limitations taken into consideration? Are limitations of the review identified and discussed?	Yes	No
10. Was bias due to the review's funding or sponsorship unlikely?	Yes	No
<p>MINUS/NEGATIVE (-) <i>If most (six or more) of the answers to the above validity questions are "No," the review should be designated with a minus (-) symbol on the Evidence Quality Worksheet.</i></p>		
<p>NEUTRAL (Ø) <i>If the answer to any of the first four validity questions (1-4) is "No," but other criteria indicate strengths, the review should be designated with a neutral (Ø) symbol on the Evidence Quality Worksheet.</i></p>		
<p>PLUS/POSITIVE (+) <i>If most of the answers to the above validity questions are "Yes," (must include criteria 1, 2, 3, and 4) the report should be designated with a plus symbol (+) on the Evidence Quality Worksheet.</i></p>		

From The American Dietetic Association