

Morning Session: 9:30am – 1:00pm

The GRADE-CERQual approach for assessing how much confidence to place in findings from qualitative evidence syntheses

Comparing Multiple Interventions Methods Group

Facilitators: the GRADE-CERQual coordinating team.

Target audience	<p>People working on qualitative evidence syntheses. The workshop is intended for review authors who are using/planning to use GRADE-CERQual. Attendees should have some familiarity with qualitative research and evidence synthesis methods. This is an <u>intermediate level workshop</u>. It is not intended to be a basic training session.</p> <p>Number of participants: 10-40</p>
Objectives	<p>Systematic reviews of qualitative studies (qualitative evidence syntheses) are increasingly used to bring together findings from qualitative studies. A number of qualitative evidence syntheses are now published or underway in the Cochrane Library. In order to use synthesised findings to inform decisions we need methods to assess how much confidence to place in these findings.</p> <p>The objective of this workshop is to introduce the GRADE-CERQual approach to assess Confidence in Evidence from Reviews of Qualitative research.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Presentation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The GRADE-CERQual approach • Making an overall assessment of confidence • Introduction to Summary of Qualitative Findings table 2. Group discussion and/or practical exercises for each of CERQual components: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Assessing the methodological limitations of the individual studies contributing to a review finding b. Assessing the coherence of each review finding c. Assessing the relevance of studies contributing to a review finding d. Assessing the adequacy of data supporting each review finding 3. Feedback

Afternoon Session: 2:00pm – 5:30pm

Systematic reviews of prognostic studies

Prognosis Methods Group

Facilitators: Karel Moons, Lotty Hooft, Anneke Damen, Thomas Debray, Jill Hayden, Katrina Williams, Marialena Trivella, Nicole Skoetz

Target audience	Reviewers with an interest in systematic reviews of prognosis studies; basic level of knowledge. Number of participants 6-30
Objectives	<p>This half-day workshop will first introduce participants to the different types of prognosis research and explain the differences between prognosis, diagnosis and intervention studies. We will provide explicit guidance on how to define a proper review question; to design a review protocol; to search the literature; to design the data extraction form; to extract the data; to assess the risk of bias in the primary studies; and finally to meta-analyse the retrieved data and test for heterogeneity across studies. We will illustrate all this using many empirical examples, and frequently apply small group practicals and discussions.</p> <p>Prognosis studies are abundant in this era of personalized and precision medicine, which all has to do with prognosis research. Hence, systematic reviews of prognosis studies are increasingly required and conducted, to identify, critically appraise, and meta-analyse the existing evidence. Recently the PMG has developed various guidance documents and tools, ranging from TRF and protocol templates, to data extraction and risk of bias tools, to meta-analysis scripts, and guidance for reporting.</p> <p>After this workshop, participants will have a good overview of the essentials of prognosis research and systematic reviews of such studies.</p>

Afternoon Session: 2:00pm – 5:30pm

Introduction to economics methods

Economics Methods Group

Facilitators: Luke Vale, members of Campbell & Cochrane Economics Methods Group.

Target audience	This workshop is designed for review authors and individuals interested in incorporating economic evidence into systematic reviews, protocols and title registrations. Editorial staff who may encounter title registration forms and protocols with economics components. Any level of knowledge is appropriate.
Objectives	<p>This workshop covers four topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economics concepts relevant to Cochrane reviews • The importance and options for incorporating economic evidence and perspective into Cochrane reviews • Different types of economic evaluation • What to consider and include when writing a systematic review protocol to include economic evidence <p>The workshop begins with outlining key principles and concepts of health economics. It introduces the fundamental economic problem: we cannot do everything we want with the resources available. We then go on to explore why the choices we make about what to provide differ according to the priorities, values and preferences of society. From here we introduce the economic concept of efficiency and how information on cost-effectiveness can help inform judgements about efficiency. The relevance of economic evidence in Cochrane intervention reviews is then introduced, along with guidance about when explicitly including an economic perspective might be useful and how incorporating economic evidence might be done.</p> <p>By the end of this workshop you should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define Economic Theory • Define the economic concept of Opportunity Cost • Differentiate costs and resources considered in decision making • Compare and contrast different types of economic evaluation • Explain the role and relevance of economic evidence in Cochrane intervention reviews; and • Explain the method for incorporating economic perspectives and evidence into Cochrane reviews

Afternoon Session: 2:00pm – 5:30pm

Methods for qualitative evidence synthesis

Qualitative and Implementation Methods Group

Facilitators: Convenors of the Cochrane Qualitative and Implementation Methods Group.

Target audience	<p>Attendees should have some familiarity with qualitative research and evidence synthesis.</p> <p>Three methods of synthesis will be covered and examples shared:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Framework and Best Fit Framework Synthesis • Thematic Synthesis (Thomas and Harden approach) • Meta-ethnography <p>Intermediate level</p> <p>Number of participants: 10 - 40</p>
Objectives	To familiarise reviewers with 3 recommended and contrasting methods of qualitative evidence synthesis

Afternoon Session: 2:00pm – 5:30pm

Comparing multiple interventions with network meta-analysis

Comparing Multiple Interventions Methods Group

Facilitators: Georgia Salanti, Anna Chaimani, Tianjing Li, Deborah Caldwell, Julian Higgins

Target audience	This workshop is aimed at methodologists, epidemiologists, statisticians and other quantitatively-minded researchers who want to understand state-of-the-art methodology for network meta-analysis.
Objectives	<p>Standard meta-analysis methods focus on comparisons of two interventions. Rarely are there only two interventions under consideration in clinical practice. Extensions of meta-analysis to address three or more treatments have been the subject of much methodological research in recent years, and are increasingly being applied. At simplest, indirect comparisons can be performed in ways that respect the randomization within each clinical trial. More complex are so-called network meta-analyses, which allow the simultaneous analysis of clinical trials involving multiple treatments.</p> <p>This workshop will introduce the concepts and methods of indirect comparison and network meta-analysis in the context of a Cochrane systematic review, following the new Handbook Chapter drafted by the Comparing Multiple Interventions Methods Group; to demonstrate a web application, CINeMA (Confidence In Network Meta-Analysis), that simplifies the evaluation of confidence in the findings from network meta-analysis via semi-automation.</p> <p>The workshop will provide insights into network meta-analysis models that can be used to derive estimates for the relative effects of all treatments of interest. We will guide the participants through using CINeMA in automating many steps of evaluating confidence in the findings.</p> <p>By the end of this workshop participants will have an understanding of the role and potential of indirect comparisons and network meta-analysis in the evaluation of healthcare interventions and the principles, steps and statistical methods involved.</p>