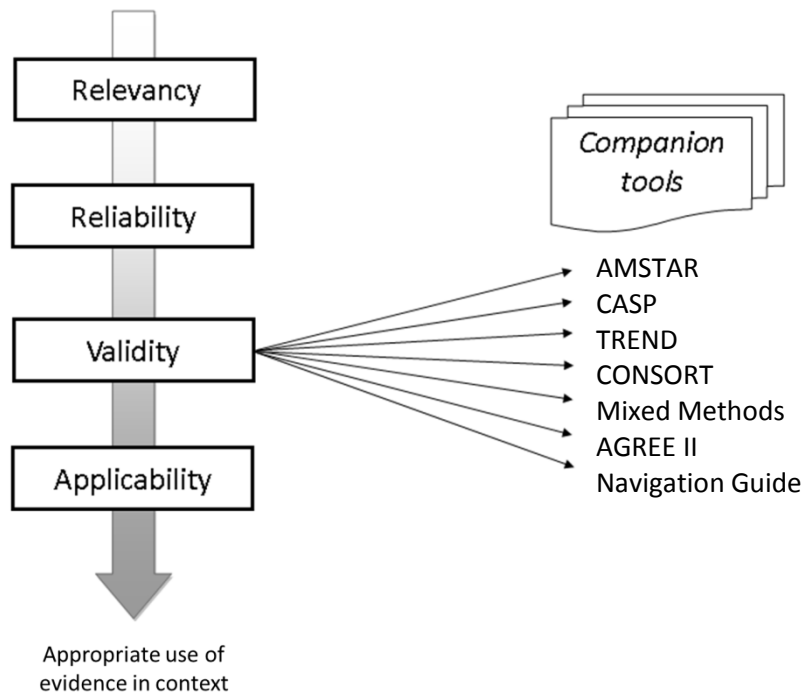


Companion tools: recommended research design-specific CATs

Due to the generic nature of the MetaQAT form ,you may find that you require more specific guidance for appraising certain study types, specifically when appraising the validity of a study. In those cases, you can refer to one of the resources listed below. Companion tools were selected from commonly-used CATs, with a preference for validated and peer-reviewed tools. Ease of use was also considered, and checklist style tools relying on a numerical score were excluded. Completing the MetaQAT while referring to the preselected companion tools allows for consistency across PHO.

Review the companion tool and use its criteria to inform your completion of the MetaQAT assessment of validity, or, if you prefer, complete the companion tool and attach it to the MetaQAT with the other sections completed. Keep in mind that not all study designs have CATs but the general appraisal framework can still be used to complete a quality assessment.

Appraisal Framework



CATs recommended for various research designs are listed in the table below. These tools were selected for being widely used and recommended by reputable sources.

Note that some resources included on the list are reporting guidelines: to use a reporting guideline as a CAT, first consider the presence of the listed items and then consider their appropriateness.

Table 1: Recommended research design-specific CATs

Research design	Recommended CAT	Summary
Systematic reviews and meta-analyses	<u>AMSTAR</u>	Assessment of Multiple Systematic Reviews (AMSTAR) is an 11-item assessment tool used to assess the methodological quality of systematic reviews. It was developed by researchers at the VU University Medical Centre in Amsterdam and the University of Ottawa, Institute of Population Health, and CIETcanada in Ottawa.
Cohort studies	<u>CASP Cohort Study Checklist</u>	CASP Cohort Study Checklist is one of several critical appraisal tools developed at Oxford University's Critical Appraisal Skills Program (CASP). Presented in a checklist format.
Case control studies	<u>CASP Case Control Study Checklist</u>	CASP Case Control Study Checklist is a tool for appraising case control studies.
Economic evaluation studies	<u>CASP Economic Evaluation Study Checklist</u>	CASP Economic Evaluation Studies Checklist is for appraising economic evaluation studies.
Non-randomised controlled trials	<u>The TREND Statement</u>	The Transparent Reporting of Evaluations with Nonrandomized Designs (TREND) statement is a reporting guide for controlled trials without random assignment. It was developed by the TREND group.
Randomised controlled trials	<u>The CONSORT Statement</u>	The Consolidated Standards of Reporting Trials (CONSORT) Statement is a document that explains the reporting guidelines for randomized clinical trials. It was developed by the CONSORT Group.
Mixed methods research	<u>Evaluation Tool for Mixed Methods Studies</u>	This tool is designed to assess both the qualitative and quantitative aspects of a mixed method design. It was developed by the Health Care Practice Research & Development Unit (HCPREDU), at the School of Nursing, University of Salford.
Qualitative research	<u>CASP Qualitative Checklist</u>	CASP Qualitative Checklist is a tool for appraising qualitative studies.
Clinical guidelines	<u>AGREE II Instrument</u>	The Appraisal of Guidelines for Research & Evaluation (AGREE) Instrument is a tool to appraise the guideline development process and reporting. It has been updated to the AGREE II instrument. It was developed by the AGREE Collaboration.
Environmental health studies	<u>Navigation Guide framework</u>	The Navigation Guide is an evidence grading process developed for use in environmental

Research design	Recommended CAT	Summary
	Navigation Guide instructions (p.33-42)	health. Evidence grading is a larger process that involves assessing risk of bias for individual studies, across a group of studies, and integrating the strength of the recommendations. The individual risk of bias component is recommended as a companion tool.
Grey literature	PHO Guide to Appraising Grey Literature	Internal guide to appraisal of non-commercially produced or non-standard knowledge products.

**Should you find a tool that is useful for a study design, please send it to library@oahpp.ca so we can update the companion tools.*

Additional resources

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