



# EVIDENCE SYNTHESIS IRELAND

## Fundamentals of Evidence Synthesis

### Background

Evidence synthesis is a method of bringing together all the evidence on a particular topic in a systematic way and coming to a conclusion about what that evidence tells us. It is important for researchers, and those making health or healthcare decisions, whether clinicians, policymakers or patients, understand the evidence underpinning those decisions. A clinician, for example, might be deciding on the most effective type of medicine to prescribe or most accurate diagnostic test to order. In these situations, we need to know what, on balance, the totality of the evidence tells us.

### Aim

In this workshop we will introduce the basic steps for undertaking a systematic review. These steps include formatting a research question, searching for studies and deciding which of the studies we find are suitable for answering the research question. We will also outline methods of assessing how confident or certain we can be of our findings.

By the end of the workshop, participants should understand the steps of a systematic review and understand why systematic reviews matter. We hope that this will inform their future decision making in health and healthcare.

### Prerequisites

Basic understanding of research study designs preferable but not required.

### Date:

**11th, 12th & 13th  
October 2023**

### Time:

**09:00am – 12:00pm**

### Location:

**Online**

### Skill Level:

**Introductory**

### Facilitators:

**Dr. Linda Biesty**

Senior lecturer at the School of Nursing & Midwifery  
University of Galway

**Dr. K.M. Saif-Ur-Rahman**

Post-Doctoral Researcher,  
Evidence Synthesis Ireland and  
Cochrane Ireland  
University of Galway

**Dr. Paula Byrne**

Post-Doctoral Researcher,  
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### Fee:

**Free**

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# EVIDENCE SYNTHESIS I R E L A N D

## Fundamentals of Evidence Synthesis

### Learning outcomes

At the end of this course, participants will understand the principles of:

- Formulating a research question
- Developing and registering a protocol
- Developing and running a comprehensive search strategy
- Screening citations
- Data extraction
- Data synthesis
- Critical appraisal
- Certainty of evidence
- Qualitative evidence synthesis (QES)
- Report writing

### Target Audience

PhD and MSc students on the Island of Ireland.

### Teaching Strategies

The workshop will consist of a mixture of short presentations and discussion.

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### Course timetable

Day 1 - 11th October 2023	
09:00	Introductions
09:30	Formulation of the research question
10:15	Protocol & registration
10:30	Comprehensive search strategy
11:00	Screening
11:30	Data Extraction
12:00	Finish

  

Day 2 - 12th October 2023	
09:00	Data synthesis
09:45	Critical appraisal
10:30	Certainty of evidence
11:00	Write up & presentation of results
11:30	Questions & resources
12:00	Finish

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Day 3 - 13th October 2023

09:00	Recap
09:15	Introduction to Qualitative Evidence Synthesis (QES)
09:30	QES methods at a glance
09:45	Data extraction for QES
10:15	Data synthesis for QES
11:00	Critical appraisal for QES
11:15	GRADE-CERQUAL
11:45	Q & A and discussions
12:00	Finish

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