



EVIDENCE SYNTHESIS
IRELAND



Cochrane
Ireland

Introduction to Mixed Methods Synthesis (Online – 2 x ½ days)

Background

In addition to understanding “what works” policy makers and practitioners often need to understand how something works, the feasibility and acceptability of an intervention, how best to implement it or whether there are unintended consequences. They may also want to understand how people value particular outcomes, or why differences in impact are seen. Qualitative evidence can often speak to these issues. Bringing together the insights from both quantitative and qualitative evidence can enhance the completeness, relevance or interpretation of the evidence base.

There are a number of ways in which quantitative and qualitative evidence can inform each other and a range of approaches and methods for mixed methods synthesis depending on the questions being asked and the data available which will be explored in this workshop.

Aim

To introduce approaches, tools and methodologies for mixed methods systematic reviews and syntheses.

Objectives:

The objective of this workshop is to provide an overview of:

- Approaches, tools and methodologies for mixed methods systematic reviews and syntheses.
- When mixed methods design might be appropriate and appropriate designs.
- How to formulate mixed methods review questions
- Approaches to searching, study selection, data extraction and critical appraisal.

Date & time:

Monday 20th March:
13:00 – 16:30

Tuesday 21st March:
09:30 – 13:00

Facilitator:

Professor Ruth Garside

Associate Professor in Evidence Synthesis,
European Centre for Environment and Human Health,
University of Exeter

Skill level:

Advanced

Prerequisites:

Participants will be expected to have conducted a systematic review of quantitative research, and to have knowledge of the methods for qualitative evidence synthesis.

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To provide hands on exercises relevant to mixed methods systematic reviews and syntheses.

Learning outcomes

In this course participants will be enabled to:

- Develop appropriate questions for mixed methods systematic reviews
- Consider appropriate approaches and tools for addressing these questions.
- Be aware of the implications for searching, quality appraisal and synthesis of mixed methods systematic reviews.

Target Audience

Healthcare professionals, academics, researchers, decision makers, librarians, information specialists, and Evidence Synthesis Ireland fellows and teaching faculty who would like to learn more.

Teaching strategies

The workshop will consist of a mixture of short presentations, small group work and plenary discussion. The number of participants for the course is limited to 30.

Places:

30

Fee:

€100 (General)

€50 (Student)

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Course content/timetable

PROGRAMME – DAY 1 1-4:30pm	
1:00 – 1:15pm	Introductions and outline of the course
1:15 – 1:35pm	Introduction to Mixed Methods (why use it and what it is / is not)
1:35 – 2:00pm	When and how can you integrate?
2:00 – 2:15pm	Questions / discussion (full group)
2:15 – 2:30pm	Break
2:30 – 3:15pm	Formulating MM Questions and Writing your Protocol (Breakout rooms)
3:15 – 3:30pm	Break
3:30 – 3:50pm	Search Sources and Strategies
3:50 – 4:15pm	Study Selection
4:15 – 4:30pm	Discussion / questions

PROGRAMME – DAY 2 9:30-1pm	
9:30 – 9:45am	Recap and Qs from Day 1 (full group)
9:45 – 10:30am	Quality Appraisal using separate and combined tools
10:30 – 10:45am	Break
10:45 – 11:30am	Approaches to MM synthesis
11:30 – 12:15pm	Exercises using different methods (Breakout rooms)
12:15 – 12:45pm	Methodologies for MM reviews and syntheses
12:45 – 1:00pm	MM clinic – Any outstanding questions

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