

# Pretty Darned Kwik (PDK):

A method of rapid critical appraisal

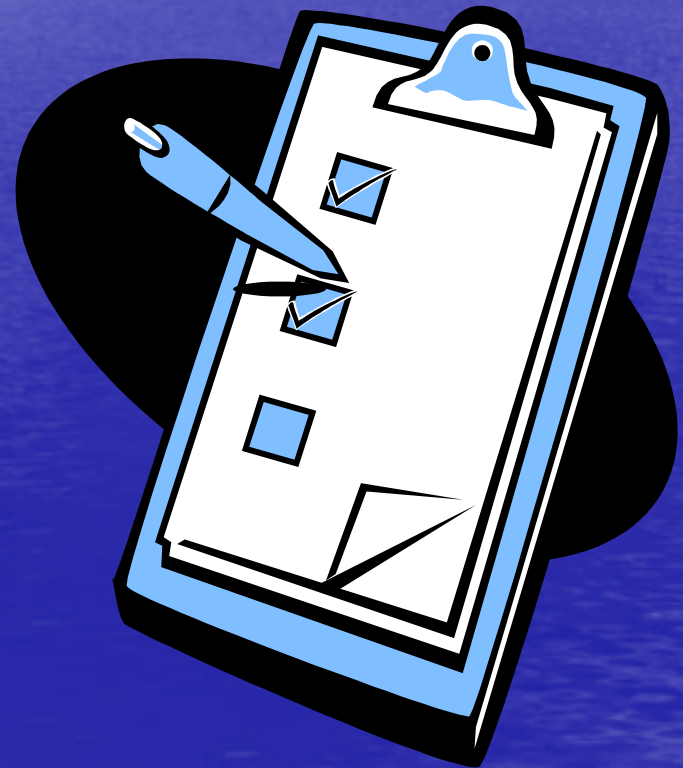
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# Background

- Existing methods of critical appraisal are time consuming
- Validity and reliability are often conflated with generalisability
- Intermediaries (e.g. info providers and audit staff) require methods of rapid appraisal
- Teaching CA usually requires at least a 90-minute session

# Aim:

- To investigate the usefulness of a method of rapid critical appraisal



# Method - 1

- Developed **one page appraisal forms** for:
  - RCT
  - Systematic Review
  - Diagnosis
  - Survey
- **Excluded** most applicability questions
- **Focused** on study quality questions, not study information questions

# PDOQ – Pretty Darned Kwik

Each form structured as

- **P**ICO [or **PIE** for Surveys]
- **D**esign
- **K**ey Questions

# Method - 2

- **Population** : 38 clinical effectiveness coordinators
- **Intervention**: Brief introduction to appraisal. Work in twos and threes with article. Scanning not reading [1<sup>st</sup> Level filter]. One of four forms assigned randomly. Total = 1 hour duration.
- **Evaluation**: Post-workshop questionnaire

# Results - Population

- To what extent have you been **involved** in doing CA prior to this course?
- To what extent have you had **formal training** in CA prior to this course?

Quite a lot	A little	Not at all
5	20	13

Quite a lot	A little	Not at all
1	17	19

# Achievement of objectives



# Course features

<b>Duration</b> – time allocated was...	Too long 1	About right 22	Too short 15
<b>Content</b> – material covered was...	Too much 0	About right 31	Too little 6
<b>Level</b> – course was...	Too advanced 2	About right 33	Too basic 1

# They said:

- Quick guide to rule out articles which are not appropriate and rule in “possibles” to be read in more detail
- Useful aide-memoire
- It is very simple but allows process to begin
- Useful for quick review

# But....

- The practical part threw me into increasing confusion followed by mounting anxiety [and] this quick approach conflicted with my training and resulted in confusion
- More time – 1 to 1:30 hours at most

# Cautionary note:

What does "PDK" stand for?

- Population/ Design/ Key questions 21
- Don't Know 1
- Pretty Darned Kwik 16!

# Facilitator's Conclusions

- Is a need for methods of rapid appraisal
- However worksheets need refinement
- Slightly more time is required for teaching and
- Shouldn't try to be pretty darned k-lever with the acronyms!

# The Way Forward

- **Improve design** and **prune down content** of worksheets
- Slightly extend session (90 mins) with **more background detail** and **more articles** but **single checklist**
- **Change the acronym** to Pretty Darned Quick....and wait to be sued!!

# Acknowledgements

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