

Table 4. Critical review for quantitative studies (adapted)¹²

Review criteria	15	23	25	26
1. The title and abstract				
i. Is the title of the research paper concise, clear and congruent with the text?	Y	Y	Y	Y
ii. Were the aims and/or objectives clearly stated?	Y	Y	Y	Y
iii. Did the abstract contain sufficient information about the stages of the research process (e.g. aims, hypothesis, research approach, sample, instruments and findings)?	Y	Y	Y	Y
2. Structuring the study				
i. Is the motivation for the study demonstrated through the literature review?	N	Y	Y	Y
ii. Is the literature cited current, relevant and comprehensive?	N	Y	N	Y
iii. Does the research methodology (i.e. cohort study/RCT etc.) fit the aim of the research?	Y	Y	Y	Y
iv. Are the research procedures (data collection/analysis etc.) appropriate for the research methodology?	Y	Y	Y	Y
3. The sample				
i. Is the sample described?	Y	Y	Y	Y
ii. Is the sample size large enough?	Y	Y	Y	Y
iii. Is it clear how the sample size was determined?	Y	Y	Y	Y
4. Data collection				
i. Are the data collection procedures clear (i.e. questionnaires or other data collection tools)?	Y	Y	Y	Y
ii. Are the data adequately described?	Y	Y	Y	Y
iii. Are the instruments adequately described?	Y	Y	Y	Y
iv. Were the data collection instruments validated?	Y	Y	Y	Y
v. Were ethical issues discussed?	Y	Y	Y	Y
vi. Were issues of rigour (internal and external validity) discussed and resolved?	Y	N	Y	Y
5. Data analysis				
i. Are descriptive and/or inferential statistics reported?	Y	Y	Y	Y
ii. Were tests used to analyse the data clear?	Y	Y	Y	Y
iii. Was the outcome of each statistical analysis, and it's meaning, explained?	Y	Y	Y	Y
6. Findings				
i. Are the results clearly and completely stated?	Y	Y	Y	Y
ii. Are the limitations or gaps in the study stated?	Y	Y	N	Y
iii. Were suggestions for further research made?	Y	Y	N	Y
iv. Did the researcher mention the implications of the study for healthcare?	Y	Y	Y	Y