

How to Read a Research Article: An Introduction to Critical Appraisal – Professional Standards

All of our sessions have been mapped against standards from the following professional organisations. Click on each to find the individual standards that the session meets:

- [General Medical Council](#)
- [Nursing and Midwifery Council](#)
- [Health and Care Professions Council](#)
- [General Pharmaceutical Council](#)
- [General Dental Council](#)
- [General Optical Council](#)
- [Professional Standards Authority](#)
- [Skills for Health](#)
- [Social Work England](#)
- [American College of Health Care Administrators](#)
- [Chartered Institute of Professional Development](#)
- [Academy for Healthcare Science](#)

GMC Professional Capabilities Framework

- From Domain 2 – Doctors must be able to:
 - Access the current product literature to make sure medicines are prescribed and monitored according to most up to date criteria
- From Domain 3 – Doctors must be aware of and adhere to professional requirements including:
 - Participating in continuing professional development to keep their knowledge, skills and capabilities up to date
- From Domain 6 – Doctors must demonstrate that they can participate in and promote activity to improve quality and safety by:
 - Critically appraising information from audit, inquiries, critical incidents or complaints, and implementing appropriate changes
- From Domain 9 – Doctors must demonstrate that they can:
 - Critically appraise academic literature
 - Demonstrate appropriate knowledge of research methods, including qualitative and quantitative approaches in scientific enquiry

NMC Code

- Section 6 – Always practice in line with the best available evidence
 - 6.1: Make sure that any information or advice given is evidence based including information relating to using any health and care products or services
 - 6.2: Maintain the knowledge and skills you need for safe and effective practice
- Section 9 – Share your skills, knowledge and experience for the benefit of people receiving care and your colleagues
 - 9.4: Support students' and colleagues' learning to help them develop their professional competence and confidence
- Section 19 – Be aware of, and reduce as far as possible, any potential for harm associated with your practice
 - 19.2: Take account of current evidence, knowledge and developments in reducing mistakes and the effect of them and the impact of human factors and system failures
- Section 22 – Fulfil all registration requirements
 - 22.3: Keep your knowledge and skills up to date, taking part in appropriate and regular learning and professional development activities that aim to maintain and develop your competence and improve your performance

HCPC Standards of Conduct, Performance and Ethics

- Section 2 – Communicate appropriately and effectively
 - 2.5: You must work in partnership with colleagues, sharing your skills, knowledge and experience where appropriate, for the benefit of service users and carers
- Section 3 – Work within the limits of your knowledge and skills
 - 3.3: You must keep your knowledge and skills up to date and relevant to your scope of practice through continuing professional development

GPhC Standards for Pharmacy Professionals

- From Standard 4 – Pharmacy professionals must maintain, develop and use their professional knowledge and skills. People receive safe and effective care when pharmacy professionals:
 - Use their skills and knowledge, including up-to-date evidence, to deliver care and improve the quality of care they provide
 - Use a variety of methods to regularly monitor and reflect on their practice, skills and knowledge
- From Standard 5 – Pharmacy professionals must use their professional judgement. People receive safe and effective care when pharmacy professionals:
 - Have the information they need to provide appropriate care
- From Standard 8 – Pharmacy professionals must speak up when they have concerns or when things go wrong. People receive safe and effective care when pharmacy professionals:
 - Promote and encourage a culture of learning and improvement
- From Standard 9 – Pharmacy professionals must demonstrate leadership. People receive safe and effective care when pharmacy professionals:
 - Contribute to the education, training and development of the team or of others

GDC Standards for the Dental Team

- Principle 7 – Maintain, develop and work within your professional knowledge and skills
 - 7.1.1: You must find out about current evidence and best practice which affect your work, premises, equipment and business and follow them
 - 7.3.2: You should take part in activities that maintain update or develop your knowledge and skills. Your continuing professional development (CPD) activity should improve your practice. For more information, see the GDC's advice on CPD

GOC Standards of Practice for Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians

- Section 5 – Keep your knowledge and skills up to date
 - 5.3: Be aware of current good practice, taking into account relevant developments in clinical research, and apply this to the care you provide
- Section 10 – Work collaboratively with colleagues in the interest of patients
 - 10.1: Work collaboratively with colleagues within the optical professions and other healthcare practitioners in the best interests of your patients, ensuring that your communication is clear and effective

PSA Standards for members of NHS Boards and Clinical Commissioning Group governing bodies in England

- From Standard 2 – I will apply the following values in my work and relationships with others:
 - I will be open about the reasoning, reasons, and processes underpinning my actions, transactions, communications, behaviours, and decision-making and about any conflicts of interest
 - I will take responsibility for ensuring that I have the relevant knowledge and skills to perform as a board member and that I reflect on and identify any gaps in my knowledge and skills, and will participate constructively in appraisal of myself and others. I will adhere to any professional or other codes by which I am bound
- From Standard 3 – As a Member, for myself, my organisation, and the NHS, I will seek:
 - Excellence in clinical care, patient safety, patient experience, and the accessibility of services
 - I will seek to make sound decisions individually and collectively
- From Standard 4 – I will do this by:
 - Demonstrating the skills, competencies, and judgement necessary to fulfil my role, and engaging in training, learning, and continuing professional development
 - Confidently and competently using data and other forms of intelligence, including patient complaints and feedback, to improve the quality of care

SfH Code of Conduct for Healthcare Support Workers and Adult Social Care Workers in England

- Standard 2 – Promote and uphold the privacy, dignity, rights, health and wellbeing of people who use health and care services and their carers at all time
 - 2.4: promote people's independence and ability to self-care, assisting those who use health and care services to exercise their rights and make informed choices
- Standard 3 – Work in collaboration with your colleagues to ensure the delivery of high quality, safe and compassionate healthcare, care and support
 - 3.6: Actively encourage the delivery of high quality healthcare, care and support
- Standard 6 – Strive to improve the quality of healthcare, care and support through continuing professional development
 - 6.4: Improve the quality and safety of the care you provide with the help of your supervisor (and a mentor if available), and in line with your agreed ways of working
 - 6.6: Contribute to the learning and development of others as appropriate

SWE Professional Standards

- Standard 2 – Establish and maintain the trust and confidence of people.
As a social worker I will:
 - 2.4: Practise in ways that demonstrate empathy, perseverance, authority, professional confidence and capability, working with people to enable full participation in discussions and decision making
- Standard 3 – Be accountable for the quality of my practice and the decisions I make. As a social worker I will:
 - 3.5: Hold different explanations in mind and use evidence to inform my decisions
 - 3.7: Recognise where there may be bias in decision making and address issues that arise from ethical dilemmas, conflicting information, or differing professional decisions
- Standard 4 – Maintaining my continuing professional development. As a social worker I will:
 - 4.3: Keep my practice up to date and record how I use research, theories and frameworks to inform my practice and my professional judgement
 - 4.4: Demonstrate good subject knowledge on key aspects of social work practice and develop knowledge of current issues in society and social policies impacting on social work
 - 4.5: Contribute to an open and creative learning culture in the workplace to discuss, reflect on and share best practice

ACHCA Code of Ethics

- Expectation II: Professional Competence and Personal Conduct – Individuals shall maintain high standards of professional competence, integrity, and accountability. The Health Care Administrator shall:
 - Maintain licensure/credentials and competencies required for role and setting; pursue continuing education and professional development
- Expectation IV: Responsibility to the public, the profession and colleagues – Individuals shall honor their responsibilities to the public, the profession, and interprofessional partners. The Health Care Administrator shall:
 - Advance knowledge in post-acute and long-term care through scholarship, quality improvement, and evidence-informed practice

CIPD Code of Conduct and Ethics

- Section 4 – Professional service and competence:
 - 4.1: Develop your professional knowledge, skills and competence through curiosity, seeking feedback, reflection, continuing professional development, mentorship and exposure to growth opportunities. Identify and address any gaps; demonstrate your adherence to the CIPD's continuing professional development policy
 - 4.2: Provide an insightful, up-to-date and evidence based service. Manage commitments effectively and take action where deadlines and obligations are at risk of not being met, particularly where external or personal factors may disrupt service delivery

AHCS Good Scientific Practice

- Domain 1 – Professional Practice:
 - 1.2.2: You engage in continuing professional development (CPD) and do the following:
 - Maintain and develop your knowledge, understanding and skills in line with your practice and role, including in response to changes in patient need, the evidence base, technological advances and service delivery requirements.
 - Identifying when planned changes to your job role or your broader plans for developing your career create CPD needs.
 - Keep a structured record of your CPD activity to evidence how you maintain and update your knowledge, understanding and skills in line with changing needs in patient care, service delivery and your job role.
 - Adhere to the specific CPD requirements of your regulatory and/or professional body
 - 1.5.3: You contribute to others' learning and development in line with your scope of practice, competence and job role, and engage with the importance of being a competent educator as an integral component of your role as a healthcare scientist
- Domain 2 – Scientific Practice:
 - 2.1.3: You develop investigative strategies, procedures and processes, taking account of relevant clinical and other sources of information and evidence-based practice
 - 2.1.4: You interpret and critically evaluate data to inform the following:
 - Your decision-making.
 - Your development of action plans.
 - Your advice and recommendations to others on further investigations, screening and management options
- Domain 3 – Clinical Practice:
 - 3.1.4: You interpret and advise on complex and/or specialist data in the context of the clinical question being posed, your scope of practice and role, including by providing the following:
 - The results obtained through your investigation or examination.
 - Your analysis and interpretation of the results.

- The basis of your diagnostic or therapeutic opinion or advice, including any caveats to this.
 - The relevance of your findings for informing further decision-making and actions on the part of the responsible clinician.
 - The wider implications for optimising the efficiency and effectiveness of clinical investigations for individual patients or groups of patients
- Domain 4 – Research, Development and Innovation:
 - 4.1.4: You develop, evaluate, validate and verify new developments (including to do with new scientific, technical, diagnostic, monitoring, treatment and therapeutic procedures) and adapt and integrate new procedures into your routine practice once you are assured by evidence of their safety, efficacy and effectiveness
 - 4.1.5: You critically evaluate and apply research and other available evidence to do the following:
 - Inform your own practice and ensure that this remains leading-edge.
 - Inform your colleagues' practice and professional development.
 - Contribute to quality improvements in service delivery.
 - Enhance patient care and outcomes.
 - Contribute to and share new knowledge in line with meeting the public interest