

	1 – Unacceptable	2 – Poor	3 – Good	4 – Very Good	5 - Excellent
<b>CLARITY OF OBJECTIVES</b>	No clear objectives or very inappropriate	Stated objectives are poor	Adequate study objectives but not optimally detailed	Objectives are clear, but require minor clarification	Appropriate, complete and well-described objectives
<b>CHOICE OF APPROACH</b>	Design did not assess stated hypothesis/objectives or design used is not clear	Chosen study design was sub-optimal to assess the stated objectives	Chosen study design was reasonable to assess the stated objectives	Chosen study design was a very good method for assessing the stated objectives	Chosen study design was best method for testing the stated objectives
<b>OUTCOME MEASURES and ASSESSMENT OF BIAS</b>	Outcome measure not stated or high likelihood of significant bias	Outcome measure stated, but not defined or sub-optimal protection against bias/ cannot assess risks for bias	Outcome measures stated, but not ideal or with some mild potential for bias	Defined outcomes measures, but incompletely controlled, or protected from bias	Clearly defined outcome measures, and well-protected from bias
<b>STATISTICS</b>	Severely flawed or no statistical methods were reported	Statistical methods and conclusions are suboptimal or incomplete	Statistical methods and reporting are mostly adequate, but not comprehensive.	Statistical methods and reporting are largely correct, but are missing few descriptors	Statistical methods and reporting are comprehensive and correct (i.e., p-values/CI/Kappa/Categorizations for qualitative or systematic reviews).
<b>SAMPLE SIZE APPROPRIATENESS</b>	Study size not reported, poor survey response rate or no description of databases searched for systematic reviews	Examples: (a) inadequate powered RCT or prospective cohort study or retrospective studies; (b) small or low - response-rate surveys; (c) inadequate number of databases covered for systematic reviews	Examples: (a) feasibility or single-centre RCT or prospective cohort study or retrospective studies; (b) large, suitable-response-rate surveys; (c) adequate number of databases covered for systematic reviews	Examples: (a) well-powered single-centre RCT or prospective cohort study or retrospective studies; (b) large, national, high-response-rate surveys; (c) most appropriate databases covered for systematic reviews	Examples: (a) well-powered multicentre RCT or prospective cohort study or retrospective studies; (b) large, international, high-response-rate surveys; (c) all relevant databases covered for systematic reviews
<b>IMPORTANCE OF TOPIC</b>	Not relevant to EM	Either limited interest or applicable to only a few practitioners of EM	Either important topic or may be practicing-changing for EM	Both an important topic and may be practicing-changing/of interest for EM	Highly innovative, practice-changing for EM
<b>WRITING QUALITY</b>	Poorly written and hard to understand	Inadequately written or structured	Generally well-written, but requires minor clarifications or corrections	Well-written, but requires a slight correction	Perfect grammar, no errors, very clear expression of ideas
<b>OVERALL IMPRESSION</b>	Unacceptable	Poor	Good	Very Good	Excellent