

2002 Cochrane colloquium: Stavenger, Norway

Title of workshop: Determining study design classification of potential trial reports using MEDLINE abstracts as examples (introductory)

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Abstract:

Currently hundreds of handsearchers around the world are identifying controlled trial reports from journals, conference proceedings, and other sources. Learning to differentiate between randomised controlled trials (RCTs), controlled clinical trials (CCTs), and non-trials in published reports and abstracts is not always easy. This introductory handsearch training workshop will first review the criteria for RCTs and CCTs, then use MEDLINE abstracts of trial and non-trial reports to demonstrate areas where there is confusion about study design classification, and to help explain where relevant information was described in the abstract. Electronic versions of the MEDLINE abstracts to be reviewed at the session will be made available to all participants beforehand and participants should bring them to the workshop.

This introductory workshop is targeted to Trials Search Coordinators and handsearchers who have limited experience in trial identification and differentiation, and who have not attended a previous version of this workshop. The advanced workshop will cover similar topics but be targeted to those with more experience in handsearching.