

Workshop 1.3 Overview

Introducing the INSPECT-SR tool to assess the trustworthiness of randomised controlled trials

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It is now clear that some published RCTs contain false data or results, and some are entirely fabricated. There are no agreed methods for identifying these “problematic studies” and as a result they are likely to be included in systematic reviews, where they may contribute to healthcare decisions.

The NIHR-funded INSPECT-SR (INvestigating ProBlEmatic Clinical Trials in Systematic Reviews) tool guides the user through a series of trustworthiness checks to help them to identify problematic studies. This workshop will introduce the tool, and give participants the opportunity to apply it to published RCTs in small groups. Participants will learn how to use the tool to make an overall assessment about a study’s trustworthiness. Participants will have the opportunity to discuss the experience and to provide feedback, which may be used to improve the tool.