

Starting and running a journal club

At a journal club meeting, you read and appraise a research or clinical journal article, and discuss how it applies to your practice.

Attending a journal club could ... improve your critical reading skills – help you become more confident at giving presentations - encourage evidence based practice – improve your familiarity with research – be good for your CPD. And it might change your practice!

If you are starting a journal club, here are some things to consider:

- What are the aims and objectives of the club as a whole?
- Who will you invite? Doctors? Nurses? AHPs? All professions?
- How many attendees is the maximum?
- What structure will a meeting have?
- How often will you meet? When and for how long? Where?
- Will you have a leader? Who will it be? The same person each time, or a different person? How will you decide who is leading each one?
- How will you choose the article or topic to discuss? Who chooses it?
- Will you send the article out in advance? How long before the meeting?
- How will you get copies of the article to send out in advance?
- How will you appraise the article? Which appraisal tool will you use?
- Will everyone read and appraise the article at the meeting?
- Or will someone give a presentation about the article and lead discussion?
- Who else will you invite? Your Clinical Librarian? A statistician?
- Will you have coffee? Biscuits? Food?
- Could you get a sponsor for the meetings?
- Can you get the club accredited for CPD purposes?

The Library can:

- Help you find articles to appraise, and advise on getting copies;
- Advise on critical appraisal tools to use;
- Help you acquire critical appraisal skills – we can run a workshop for you, or you can book a place on our regular workshop;
- Offer you a meeting space if you need one;
- Put you in touch with existing journal clubs that are happy to share their experience;
- Talk to you more about the points on this sheet.

Please contact the Clinical Librarians if we can help:

ClinicalLibrarian@uhl-tr.nhs.uk - Ext. 2307 / 2309 / 5558