CHECKLIST FOR READING AND CRITICALLY EVALUATING THE LITERATURE

ABSTRACT
_____ Did the abstract provide an adequate summary of the purpose and results of the study?

INTRODUCTION
_____ Was the purpose/justification clearly stated, logical, and convincing?
_____ Was the literature review clearly discussed and connected to the present study?

METHODS
_____ Is the study design clearly defined or clear in context?
_____ Is the study sample(s) clearly defined, including how the sample(s) was (were) chosen?
_____ Are the data collection instruments/strategies adequately described, including any evidence of their reliability and validity?

RESULTS
_____ Are the characteristics of the study group(s) described?
_____ Do the results relate to the purpose/justification of the study?
_____ Are actual values reported (e.g., means, standard deviations or standard errors, percentages), not just the results of statistical tests (e.g., P values)?
_____ Were all the subjects who entered the study accounted for?

DISCUSSION
_____ Are the study conclusions clearly supported by the data?
_____ Do the authors extrapolate beyond the data?
_____ Were the study setting and study subjects sufficiently representative so that the results can be generalized to other subjects and to other settings?
_____ Were there any major threats to the internal and external validity of the study that could affect the reported conclusions?