

The evidence-based approach for Occupational Health Professionals

1-3 March 2010, Kuopio, Finland

Background

Evidence-based medicine (EBM) is an established approach to find the best way to solve problems in occupational health (OH) practice and improving the quality of OH care.

Objectives

The course will focus on the application of the evidence-based approach to occupational health problems as encountered in the daily practice of occupational health professionals. It aims at giving a better understanding of what constitutes evidence in occupational health and how it can be appraised. Participants an opportunity to work on their own problems in small groups.

After the course the participants will be able to

- understand what is evidence-based professional occupational health practice
- ask relevant questions originating from professional practice
- reformulate questions from practice to enable answers from scientific or evidence-based information sources
- perform a focused search in the Medline database using the PubMed search engine
- critically appraise the value of scientific articles resulting from the PubMed search
- understand the value of Cochrane Systematic Reviews and Clinical Practice Guidelines
- apply the results to their own practice.

Target group

Practitioners from OH services, preferably with some knowledge of epidemiology and medicine

Main topics

- Introduction to evidence-based occupational health practice
- Formulating answerable questions
- Searching the literature by using PubMed, the Cochrane Library, other databases
- Critical appraisal of research articles on intervention/prevention, aetiology, prognosis, diagnosis, costs
- Critical appraisal of Cochrane Systematic Reviews and Practice Guidelines
- Applying results to practice.

Further information is available from <http://www.niva.org/courses/6001.htm>