

LLM WORKS

A LLM Worksheet for Outcomes Researchers for Key Research Tasks using Unstructured, Qualitative Evidence

Developed on behalf of Evidence Works, a new LinkedIn Group for the ISPOR session: The GenAI Paradox for Qualitative Evidence Summarization | ISPOR, May 2026

Project / Study

Date / Reviewer

PART 1 — ANALYTICAL PURPOSE AND LLM ROLE

1. Analytical Objective

What primary analytical question or objective should this study/project address?

2. How would a Researcher approach this study/project normally (i.e. in absence of AI/LLMs)?

Key steps:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Which research steps would LLMs be leveraged for?

Name the workflow steps or tasks where LLM support will be used.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

3. Intended Use of the Output

- Exploratory research or hypothesis generation
- Internal evidence synthesis or prioritization
- Conceptual framing or definition development
- Decision support (evidence-informed)
- Scientific publication or external dissemination

Other:

PART 1 — EXPERT JUDGMENT, SUCCESS, AND RISK

4. Where Expert Judgment Matters Most

- Interpreting meaning across sources
- Resolving inconsistent terminology or definitions
- Determining relevance or importance
- Synthesizing across heterogeneous evidence
- Interpreting implications

5. Success Criteria

- Evidence coverage is appropriate and transparent
- Findings are faithful to source material
- Reasoning aligns with domain expertise
- Uncertainty, limitations, and gaps are explicit
- Output is sufficient for its stated intended use

Definition of success:

6. Risk if LLMs create incomplete or incorrect output

- Misleading synthesis or interpretation
- Unsupported conclusions
- Poor downstream decisions
- Loss of scientific or stakeholder credibility

Other:

Primary concerns:

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PART 2 — STRUCTURING DATA FOR ANALYSIS

7. Evidence Scope and Boundaries

- Peer-reviewed publications
- HTA or regulatory reports
- Economic or access-focused narratives
- Patient-reported or experiential sources
- Mixed qualitative and quantitative materials

Sources and timeframe:

8. What Must Be Explicitly Structured?

- Outcomes
- Disease definitions or diagnostic criteria
- Concepts or themes
- Contextual attributes
- Indicators of change over time

Additional structures:

9. Role of LLMs in Data Curation and Normalization

LLMs may be used to:

- Extract and organize concepts
- Normalize terminology
- Map text to analytical structures
- Tag evidence
- Surface ambiguity

LLMs may not be used to:

10. Validation of Structured Outputs

- Full quality check by Human
- Sampling-based quality checks by Human
- Quantitative agreement measures against “gold standard”

Acceptable performance:

PART 3 — SYNTHESIS, INTERPRETATION, AND REVIEW

11. Question(s) Asked of the Evidence

Write the specific evidence question(s) the synthesis should answer.

- Descriptive synthesis
- Comparative interpretation
- Temporal evolution
- Implications for research, value, or decision-making

12. Reasoning and Transparency Requirements

- Evidence cited for claims
- Distinction between evidence and interpretation
- Explicit uncertainty
- Reproducible logic

Transparency notes:

13. Human Accountability Checklist

Activity	AI Drafts	Human Reviews	Human Finalizes
Data structuring	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Synthesis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Interpretation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Final Readiness Check

- Analytical purpose is clear
- Evidence boundaries are documented
- AI role and non-use boundaries are explicit
- Validation method is defined
- Expert review ownership is assigned

Ready for next step when:
