

Grading Definition Table

Definitions for Recommendation Strength and Grades for Certainty of Evidence^{1a}

Strength of Guideline Recommendation	Implications for Clinicians	Certainty of Evidence from Systematic Review	Definition of Grades for Certainty of Evidence
1 Strong	Most individuals should receive the recommended course of action. Adherence to this recommendation according to the guideline could be used as a quality criterion or performance indicator. Formal decision aids are not likely to be needed to help individuals make decisions consistent with their values and preferences.	A-HIGH	We are very confident that the true effect lies close to that of the estimate of the effect.
		B-MODERATE	We are moderately confident in the effect estimate: The true effect is likely to be close to the estimate of the effect, but there is a possibility that it is substantially different
2 Weak	Recognize that different choices will be appropriate for different patients, and that you must help each patient arrive at a management decision consistent with her or his values and preferences. Decision aids may well be useful helping individuals making decisions consistent with their values and preferences. Clinicians should expect to spend more time with patients when working towards a decision.	C-LOW	Our confidence in the effect estimate is limited: The true effect may be substantially different from the estimate of the effect.
		D-VERY LOW	We have very little confidence in the effect estimate: The true effect is likely to be substantially different from the estimate of effect
Consensus	Recommendation is based on clinical expertise and experience with client values. Thus, different choices will be appropriate for different patients, and you must help each patient arrive at a management decision consistent with her or his values or preferences.	Unclear or Unavailable	Evidence from the systematic review was unavailable or unclear.

^aTypically, strong recommendations are created from evidence with high or moderate certainty of evidence and weak recommendations are created from low or very low certainty evidence. However, in some cases evidence was limited but expert panel members came to consensus that a recommendation should be rated as strong due to clinical experience.

1. The GRADE Working Group. GRADE handbook for grading quality of evidence and strength of recommendations. Cochrane Collaboration. <https://gdt.grade.pro.org/app/handbook/handbook.html>. Published 2013. Updated October 2013. Accessed April 22, 2021.