

1. Rating the quality of the evidence

1.

Establish initial level of confidence

Study design	Initial confidence in an estimate of effect
Randomized trials➡	High confidence
Observational studies➡	Low confidence

2.

Consider lowering or raising level of confidence

Reasons for considering lowering or raising confidence	
➡ Lower if	⬆ Higher if**
Risk of Bias	Large effect
Inconsistency	Dose response
Indirectness	All plausible confounding & bias
Imprecision	• would reduce a demonstrated effect
Publication bias	or
	• would suggest a spurious effect if no effect was observed

3.

Final level of confidence rating

Confidence in an estimate of effect across those considerations
High ⊕⊕⊕⊕
Moderate ⊕⊕⊕○
Low ⊕⊕○○
Very low ⊕○○○

2. Determinants of the Strength of Recommendation



3. Implication of the Strength of Recommendation

Strong	Conditional
❖ Population: Most people in this situation would want the recommended course of action and only a small proportion would not ❖ Health care workers: Most people should receive the recommended course of action ❖ Policy makers: The recommendation can be adapted as a policy in most situations	❖ Population: The majority of people in this situation would want the recommended course of action, but many would not ❖ Health care workers: Be prepared to help people to make a decision that is consistent with their own values/decision aids and shared decision making ❖ Policy makers: There is a need for substantial debate and involvement of stakeholders