Using the GRADE approach to assess the certainty of evidence in Guideline Development: Part 1
Submitted on behalf of the GRADE Working Group

Contact information:
Nancy Santesso, RD, MLIS, PhD
Assistant Professor, Department of Health Research Methods, Evidence and Impact
Health Sciences Centre, 2C, McMaster University
1280 Main Street West
Hamilton, ON L8S 4L8
Tel: +1 289 407 1505   Fax: 905 522 9507
santesna@mcmaster.ca

Aims and objectives of the course
This workshop is Part 1 of a two-part series of workshops about the use of GRADE in guideline development. To create guidelines, developers must synthesise the evidence, assess the evidence, and then use the evidence to make recommendations. This workshop, Part 1, will cover how to use GRADE to assess the certainty of evidence. Part 2 will cover how to incorporate the evidence in the decision-making process to create recommendations using the Evidence to Decision Framework.

Participants can choose to attend Part 1 and 2 or attend one workshop depending on their needs.

In this workshop, participants will
- understand how the GRADE approach fits into the overall process of guideline development;
- learn about the GRADE approach to assess the certainty of evidence from a synthesis of randomised or non-randomised studies, including the domains of risk of bias, inconsistency, indirectness, imprecision, publication bias, large effects, dose response and opposing residual confounding;
- apply this knowledge during hands-on exercises using examples; and,
- create evidence tables using the GRADEpro software.

Proposed teaching methods
This is a hands-on workshop with a mix of interactive presentations and time for participants to work. Participants will be in pairs or small groups run by facilitators to practice using GRADE to assess the evidence and to practice using the GRADEpro software.

In past workshops, participants are provided with materials in a Dropbox link for use during the workshop and after the workshop. The GRADEpro software is available online for free.

How does the course relate to G-I-N's purpose and/or the conference theme?
This workshop addresses key methods to produce trustworthy guidelines – methods to develop and prioritise important questions (and outcomes), and assessing the evidence to inform recommendations, and presenting that evidence to guideline panels.

Detailed programme from 0800 to 1230

0800-0815	Introductions: facilitators and participants
0815-0845	Plenary: Review of the GRADE approach and guideline development
0845-0900	*Pair work: Question development*
0900-1000	Plenary: How to GRADE the evidence: interactive examples about risk of bias, inconsistency, indirectness, imprecision, publication bias, large effects, dose response and opposing residual confounding.

1000-1015	Coffee break
1015-1115	*Small groups: using GRADE on examples to assess the certainty of evidence approach*
1115-1130	Plenary: Demonstration of the use of the online GRADEpro software (participants should use or share laptops)
1130-1215	*Small groups: Practice using the online GRADEpro software and more examples to GRADE the evidence*
1215-1230	Final questions

Equipment required
Projector and screen, slide advancer
Electrical cords and outlets so that all participants can use laptops
2 flip charts and markers
Round tables of 8-10 people or chairs that can be moved

Proposed advertising
We will advertise the workshop through our international GRADE and Cochrane Canada list servs, Facebook pages and twitter accounts.

Key presenters and facilitators
Dependent on the number of participants:
        Nancy Santesso (McMaster University, Canada)
        Romina Brignardello Petersen (McMaster University, Canada)
        Jan Brozek (McMaster University Canada)
        Miranda Langendam (University of Amsterdam, Netherlands)
        Reem Mustafa (University of Missouri-Kansas City, USA)
        Maria Ximena Rojas Reyes (Javeriana University, Colombia)
        Wojtek Wiercioch (McMaster University, Canada)
        plus, other experts in GRADE methods

Target audience, including maximum number of participants
Guideline producers and developers, and methodologists who have some experience with systematic reviews and guideline development

Biographies and pictures

Nancy Santesso is Assistant Professor in the Department of Health Research Methods, Evidence and Impact at McMaster University, Canada, a Registered Dietitian, and a member of the GRADE Working Group and DECIDE Collaboration. She is currently working with guideline panels of professional organisations and the World Health Organisation internationally to use the GRADE approach to guideline development. This work involves conducting evidence reviews, training guideline panels in the GRADE approach, and facilitating the guideline development process. She has also worked with a number of Cochrane groups to produce systematic reviews and to translate that evidence for use by various stakeholders.

	Romina Brignardello Petersen is Assistant Professor, Department of Health Research Methods, Evidence and Impact at McMaster University, Canada. She has facilitated guideline development for many organisations, including country offices with the PanAmerican Health Organisation. Her research interests include systematic reviews, and in particular, network meta-analyis and the GRADE approach.
	Jan Brozek is Associate Professor, Department of Health Research Methods, Evidence and Impact at McMaster University, Canada and Internist. He is a member of the GRADE Working Group. He has been involved in many guidelines processes. His interests include the development and adaptation of clinical practice guidelines, and systematic reviews of therapeutic and diagnostic interventions, particularly in allergy and immunology
	Miranda Langendam is an assistant professor in the Department of Clinical Epidemiology at the University of Amsterdam in the Netherlands. She was trained in biomedical sciences and worked as researcher for several academic and governmental organisations on a wide range of health care questions (public health and clinical care). She has been involved in many (commissioned) systematic reviews and evidence-based guidelines, in the role of developer, project lead and methodology consultant. She has a special interest in methods for developing recommendations for medical tests. Currently she advises the National Health Care Institute on how to use GRADE for coverage decisions
	Reem Mustafa is Associate Professor in the Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Neprhology and Hypertension, KU Medical Center, University of Kansas. She has been involved with multiple guideline development groups internationally through the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Canadian Society of Nephrology (CSN) among others. She is co-founder of the U.S. GRADE network. Her interests include the application of principles of evidence-based medicine in clinical decision-making and guideline development, in particular to decisions about diagnostic tests and strategies.
	Maria Rojas, Maria Ximena, from Colombia, is a Registered Nurse, holds a Master of Science in Clinical Epidemiology from the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana and a PhD in Biomedical Research´s Methodology. She is Associate Professor and Senior researcher at Pontificia Universidad Javeriana's School of Medicine. For the last 15 years María has been particularly involved in knowledge translation and evidence-based practice. She is a member of the GRADE Working Group and currently working with guideline panels of professional organisations and the World Health Organisation internationally to use the GRADE approach to guideline development.

Wojtek Wiercioch is based in the Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics at McMaster University. He holds a master's in health research Methodology from McMaster and is a PhD candidate. He is a member of the GRADE Working Group and has worked with guideline organisations to facilitate the use of GRADE, and in particular for the adaptation of guidelines and evaluation of the guideline development process.

Using the GRADE Evidence to Decision Framework (EtD) to make decisions: GRADE workshop Part 2
Submitted on behalf of the GRADE Working Group

Aims and objectives of the course
This workshop is Part 2 of a two-part series of workshops about the use of GRADE in guideline development. To create guidelines, developers must synthesise the evidence, assess the evidence, and then use the evidence to make recommendations. The first workshop (part 1) covers how to use GRADE to assess the certainty of evidence. This part 2, will cover how to incorporate the evidence in the decision-making process to create recommendations using the Evidence to Decision Framework.

Participants can choose to attend Part 1 and 2 or attend one workshop depending on their needs.

In this workshop, participants will
- Identify the criteria that decision makers should consider making decisions or recommendations
- Identify the determinants of the strength of recommendation
- Obtain a working knowledge of information and evidence about resources/costs and patient preferences to inform decisions
- Understand the importance of assessing issues of feasibility, equity and acceptability to inform decisions
- Apply this knowledge during hands-on exercises using examples in an EtD framework

Proposed teaching methods
This is a hands-on workshop with a mix of interactive presentations and time for participants to work. Participants will be in small groups run by facilitators to practice using the EtD framework to make a decision/recommendation and using the GRADEpro software (available online for free).

How does the course relate to G-I-N's purpose and/or the conference theme?
This workshop addresses key methods to produce trustworthy guidelines when making the recommendations. Evidence should be incorporated in the decision for all types of factors, including benefits and harms, patient values and preferences, equity issues, etc. The Evidence to Decision Framework is a tool that can ensure trustworthy guidelines are produced.

Detailed programme from 0800 to 1230

13.30-13:45	Introductions: facilitators and participants
13:45 – 14:00	Plenary: Review of the GRADE approach and guideline development (general)
14:00 – 14:30	*Pair work- brainstorm: Criteria to consider when making decisions within the guideline development context*
14:30- 15:15	Plenary: Criteria to consider – *Evidence, Balance between desirable and undesirable effects, Cost, Patient preferences, Equity, Acceptability, feasibility.*
15:15 – 15:30	Coffee break

15:30- 16:15	Plenary/continued: Criteria to consider– *Evidence, Balance between desirable and undesirable effects, Cost, Patient preferences, Equity, Acceptability, feasibility.*
16:15 – 16:45	Demonstration and practice using the online GRADEpro software (participants should use or share laptops)
16:45 -17:45	Mock guideline panel: Using the EtD to make decisions/recommendations
17:45 – 18:00	Final questions

Equipment required
Projector and screen, slide advancer
Electrical cords and outlets so that all participants can use laptops
2 flip charts and markers
Round tables of 8-10 people or chairs that can be moved

Proposed advertising
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>   Wojtek Wiercioch (McMaster University, Canada)
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