Using the GRADE approach to assess the certainty of evidence in Guideline Development: Part 1

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.

This workshop addresses key issues related to the development of guidelines and the use of guidelines. GRADE is becoming one of the most widely used approaches to assess the certainty of evidence from a synthesis. Using the GRADE approach can assist developers to create high quality clinical practice guidelines. Current methods and developments in the future will be discussed.

Guideline producers and developers, and methodologists who have some experience with systematic reviews and guideline development will benefit from attending the course.

Programme

08.0-0815	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

Course Facilitators

	Nancy Santesso is Assistant Professor in the Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics 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 a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics at McMaster University, Canada.
	Jan Brozek is Assistant Professor at McMaster University, Canada and Internist. He is a member of the GRADE Working Group and Methodologist for the American Thoracic Society for guideline development. 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, 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 Masters in Health Research Methodology from McMaster and his research interests lie in guideline development. 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

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 to make 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

This workshop addresses key issues related to the development of guidelines and the use of guidelines. GRADE is becoming one of the most widely used approaches to make recommendations. Using the GRADE approach can assist developers to create high quality clinical practice guidelines. Current methods and developments in the future will be discussed.

Programme

1315-13:30	Introductions: facilitators and participants
1330 – 1345	Plenary: Review of the GRADE approach and guideline development (general)
1345 – 1415	*Pair work- brainstorm: Criteria to consider when making decisions within the guideline development context*
1415- 1500	Plenary: Criteria to consider – *Evidence, Balance between desirable and undesirable effects, Cost, Patient preferences, Equity, Acceptability, feasibility.*
1500 – 1515	Coffee break
1515- 1600	Plenary/continued: Criteria to consider– *Evidence, Balance between desirable and undesirable effects, Cost, Patient preferences, Equity, Acceptability, feasibility.*
1600 – 1615	Demonstration and practice using the online GRADEpro software (participants should use or share laptops)
1615 -1700	Mock guideline panel: Using the EtD to make decisions/recommendations
1700 – 1715	Final questions

Course Facilitators - As above