

Pre-Conference Course 4

GRADE and Guideline Development

Course Aims and Objectives

To learn about and apply

- the GRADE approach in guideline development
- the GRADE approach to assess the quality of evidence from a synthesis of randomised and non-randomised studies
- the 'Evidence to Decision' framework to move from evidence to making recommendations in a guideline panel
- the GRADEpro GDT software, a one-stop software package which facilitates guideline development and use of guidelines in individual decision making, practice and policy

Relationship to G-I-N's Overall Purpose and Conference Theme

This course provides an overview of the guideline development process from the conception to dissemination with an emphasis on how to assess evidence, make recommendations and communicate recommendations to different users. The GRADE approach considers factors important to facilitate personalised care, such as patients' values and preferences, feasibility and implementation issues, and evidence about benefits and harms. The GRADE approach has been enhanced with the results of its DECIDE project (www.decide-collaboration.eu) with improved strategies to disseminate information to different stakeholders tailored to their decision-making needs.

Target Audience

Guideline producers and developers, and methodologists

Detailed Programme and Timetable

This workshop is an interactive, hands-on opportunity to use GRADE in guideline development. The large group presentations will be interactive with audience participation. The small groups will be tailored to the experiences of the group, e.g. some groups may focus on issues in guideline development, while other groups may focus on GRADE methodology. Participants should bring laptops or plan to share with others.

9:00 AM – 9:15 AM	Introductions: Facilitators and Participants
9:15 am – 10:00 AM	Overview of the GRADE approach and guideline development: developing questions and outcomes; systematic reviews of the evidence; making recommendations; disseminating guidelines
10:00 AM – 10:30 AM	Small groups: Overview of evidence tables and evidence to decision framework
10:30 AM – 10:45 AM	Refreshment
10:45 AM – 11:00 AM	Introduction to GRADEpro GDT software to facilitate guideline development
11:00 AM – 11:30 AM	How to GRADE the evidence, Part 1: Basic Concepts
11:30 AM – 12:30 PM	How to GRACE the evidence, Part 2: Interactive Examples

12:30 PM – 1:30 PM	Lunch
1:30 PM – 2:30 PM	Small Groups: Application of the GRADE approach and use of software (participants should use or share laptops)
2:30 PM – 3:15 PM	Introduction to the Evidence to Decision Framework and factors in the decision making process: Strength of recommendations and examples
3:15 PM – 3:30 PM	Refreshments
3:30 PM – 4:45 PM	Small Groups: Using the Evidence to Decision Framework to make a recommendation
4:45 PM – 5:00 PM	Final questions

Workshop 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. 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.



Elie Akl is Associate Professor, Department of Epidemiology and Population Health and Department of Internal, American University of Beirut, Lebanon. Dr. Akl is an internist and a clinical epidemiologist. His research interests include venous thrombosis, clinical trial methodology, systematic review methodology, and guideline development. He is an active member of the GRADE working group and serves as a guideline methodologist for a number of medical professional organizations and the World Health Organization.



Jan Brozek is Associate 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.



Reem Mustafa is Assistant Professor of internal medicine and Nephrologist at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. She has been involved with the World Health Organization and professional organisations to develop guidelines. She is a member of the GRADE Working Group and working with the DECIDE project. 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.



Holger Schünemann is an internist and clinical epidemiologist. He is a member of the G-I-N Board of Trustees; Chair of the Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics at McMaster University, Canada; Co-chair of the GRADE Working Group; and, Co-convenor of the Cochrane Applicability and Recommendations Methods Group. He has chaired and been involved in many guideline development processes with the World Health Organization and professional organisations.