

Table S3: Strengths of the GRADE approach

Issue	Strengths of GRADE
Definitions	Provides explicit definitions and grades of quality of evidence and strength of recommendations. The framework also makes clear what the implications of different grades are.
Process	Requires systematic, explicit, and transparent judgments. This approach should reduce risks of bias that can arise when judgments are made implicitly or non-systematically.
Factors affecting quality of evidence	Systematically considers factors that may affect assessment of the quality of evidence (see Table S2).
Factors affecting strength of recommendation	Systematically considers factors that may affect assessment of the strength of recommendations (see Box 3).
Focus on the important outcomes	Systematically assesses the quality of evidence for each of the important outcomes, including important outcomes with no or limited evidence.
Summary tables	GRADE evidence profiles and summary of findings tables report in a consistent and standardized way both quality assessment and summary of findings. This ensures that all panel members base their judgments on the same information. It also makes this information available to guideline users.
Wide adaptation	GRADE members come from a wide range of organizations working on development and evaluation. The system builds on previous experience. It has been widely adopted.

Source: This table draws on [1]

References

1. Guyatt GH, Oxman AD, Vist GE, Kunz R, Falck-Ytter Y, Alonso-Coello P, Schunemann HJ (2008) GRADE: an emerging consensus on rating quality of evidence and strength of recommendations. *BMJ* 336: 924-926.