Supplemental file 1

How to derive the suggested judgment:

If health benefits/harms< $DT_{Trivial\ to\ Small}$ → suggested judgment is of 'Trivial or None' (e.g. health benefit A)

If $DT_{Trivial\ to\ Small}$ < health benefits/harms< $DT_{Small\ to\ Moderate}$ → suggested judgment is of 'Small'

If $DT_{Small\ to\ Moderate}$ < health benefits/harms< DT_{Large} → suggested judgment is of 'Moderate'

If health benefits/harms> DT_{Large} → suggested judgment is of 'Large'

$DT_{Trivial\ to\ Small}$ $DT_{Small\ to\ Moderate}$ $DT_{Moderate\ to\ Large}$

health benefit A

Trivial or None   Small   Moderate   Large

ranges of estimates for health benefits/harms based on the GRADE EtD framework categories for judgments
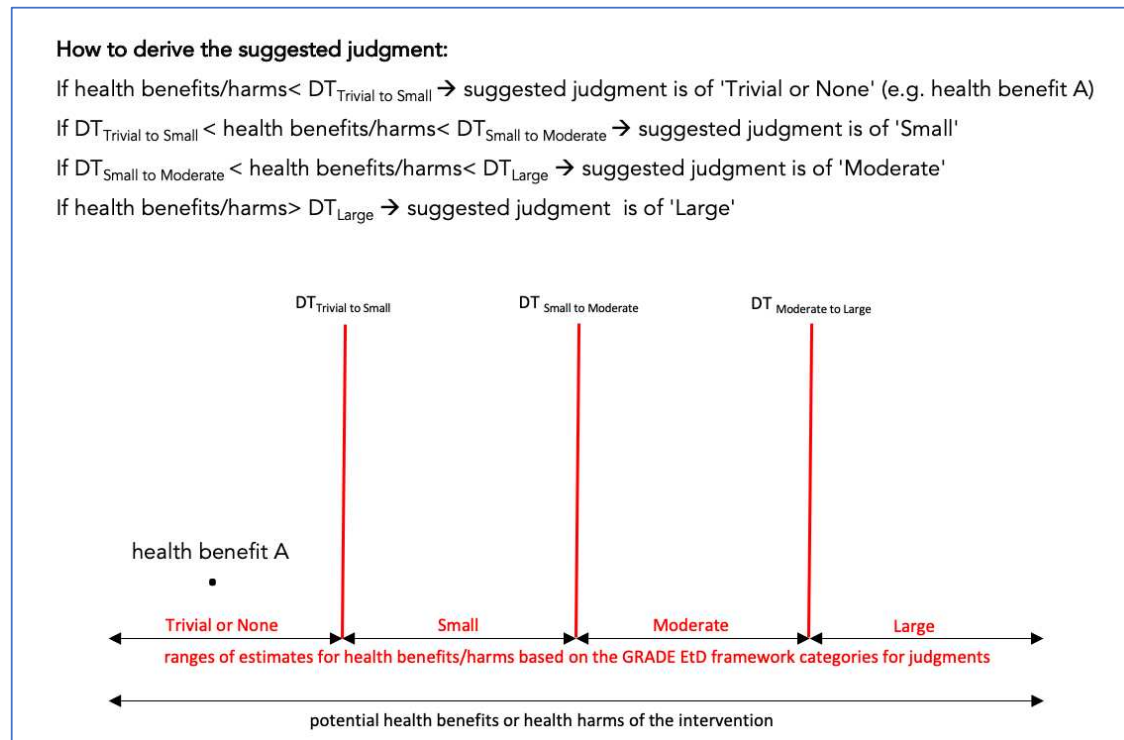
potential health benefits or health harms of the intervention

Figure 1

Figure 1 legend: The availability of three DTs ($DT_{Trivial/Small}$, $DT_{Small/Moderate}$, $DT_{Moderate/Large}$) would allow to discriminate between the four GRADE EtD framework categories for judgments. For a given health benefit/harm, the suggestion on the judgment would depend on how the estimate of health benefits/harms compares to the DTs. In this example, the health benefit A lies on the left (is smaller) of the $DT_{Trivial/Small}$ which would suggest that the judgment of 'Trivial or None' would be more appropriate than the others.
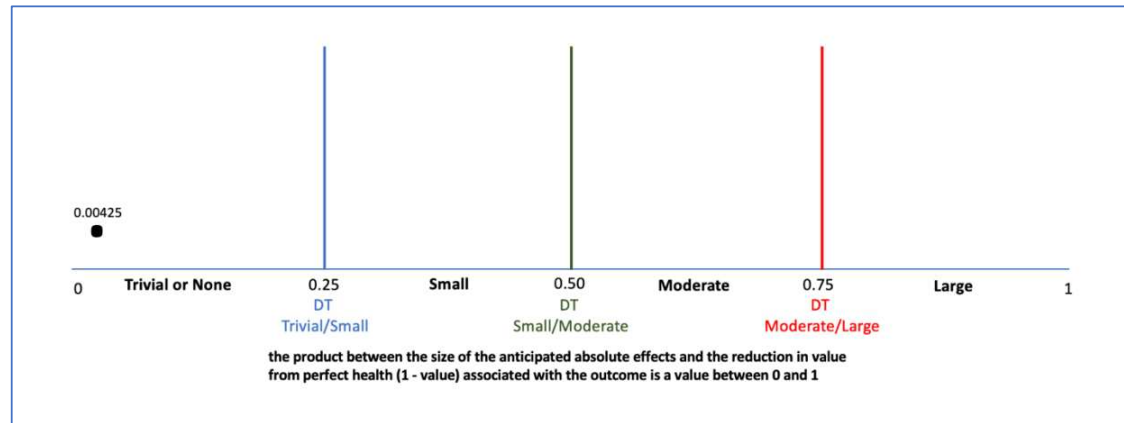
Supplemental material

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Figure 2

Figure 2 legend: We assumed to have known DTs ($DT_{Trivial/Small}$ = 0.25, $DT_{Small/Moderate}$ = 0.50, $DT_{Moderate/Large}$ = 0.75) and wanted to assign to one of the 4 EtD categories the health benefit of an intervention showing an anticipated absolute effect of 17 fewer per 1000 on an outcome valued 0.75. Following the proposed approach, we calculated the result of the product (score) of the size of anticipated effects (Absolute Risk Difference, ARD) and the reduction in value from perfect health (1 - outcome's value) associated with the outcome under evaluation. In this example, the following approach (ARD * (1 - outcome's value) = (17/1000)*(1 - 0.75)) resulted in the value of 0.00425. We then plotted this value and obtained the suggested judgment according to the DTs approach that, in this case, would be of 'Trivial or None' considering that the calculated value is smaller than the $DT_{Trivial/Small}$. In case of judgments made considering more than one outcome, it would be required to calculate the aforementioned product for each of the outcomes under evaluation and derive an aggregate score defined as the sum of all the individual scores.

Under the assumption that the outcomes are independent, this score could be then compared

to the DTs and used to obtain a suggestion on the judgment.