

Evidence-Based Decision Making In Healthcare

Preparing an Evidence to Decision Recommendation

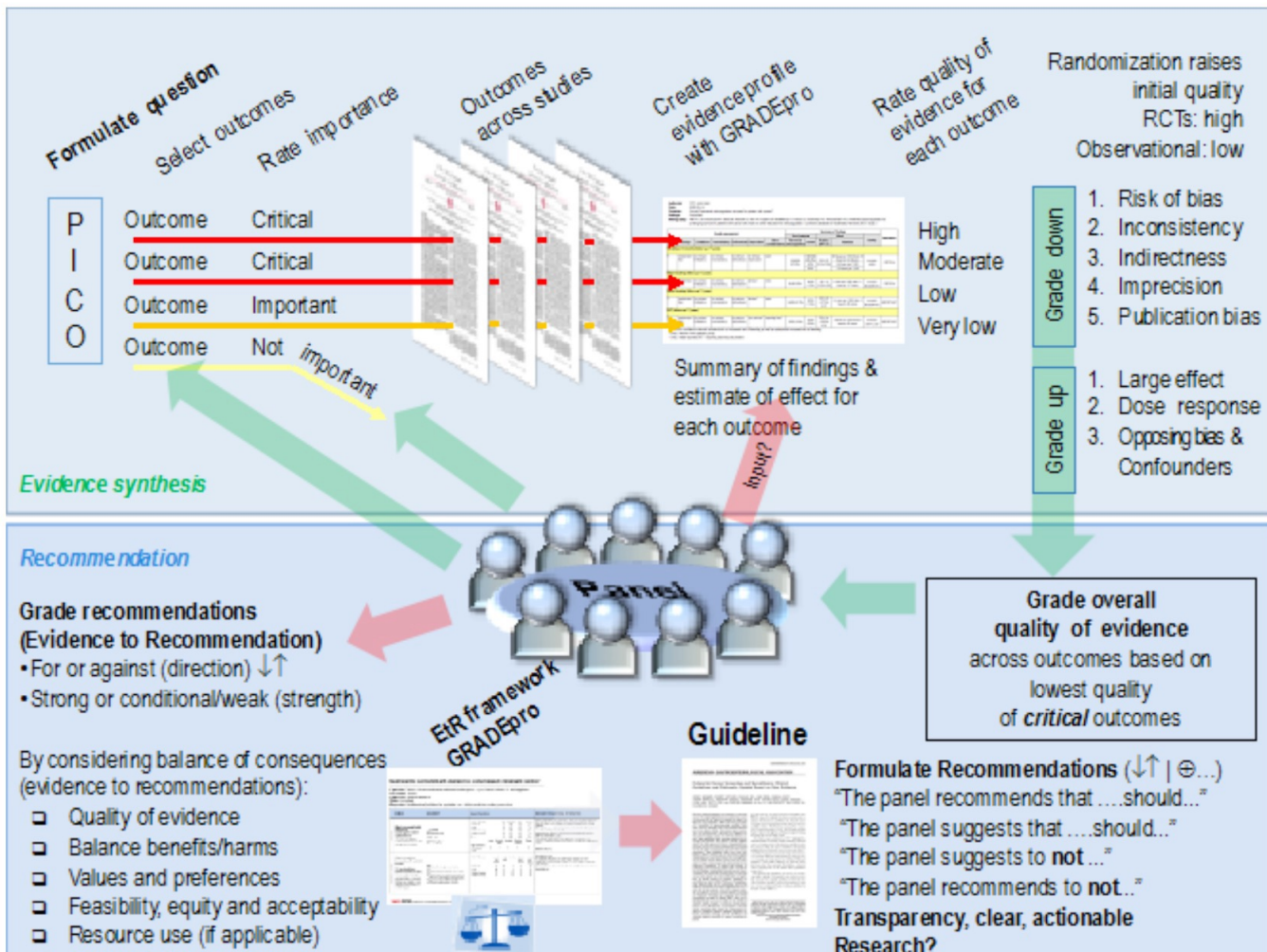
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Review the Methodology of GRADE

- Highly formal – to the point of sometimes being difficult to understand
- Will also present slightly less formal approach

Globalize the Evidence and Localize the Recommendation

- Summaries of evidence regarding management strategies should ideally very similar
- Ratings of confidence in evidence may differ, e.g., [un]desirable outcomes valued differently
- Final recommendation for your local entity will vary depending on *factors other than scientific evidence*



Overview of GRADE Approach

1. Frame a question
2. Choose critical and important outcomes
3. Rate the confidence in effect estimates for each outcome
4. Rate the confidence in effect estimates across all outcomes

Overview of GRADE Approach

5. Create an evidence profile and a summary of findings table
6. Describe other factors – affordability, acceptability, feasibility, ethics, and values
7. Categorize, label, and word health care recommendations based on evidence and other factors

Strength of Recommendation

- Confident that desirable consequences of an intervention outweigh its undesirable consequences (net worth)
- For vs. against, strong vs. weak



Strength of Recommendation

Strong	Weak*
We recommend...	We suggest...
Clinicians should...	Clinicians might...
Do...	We conditionally recommend..
	We make a qualified recommendation that...
Must, should	May

*Weak, conditional, discretionary, qualified

Implication of Strong Recommendation

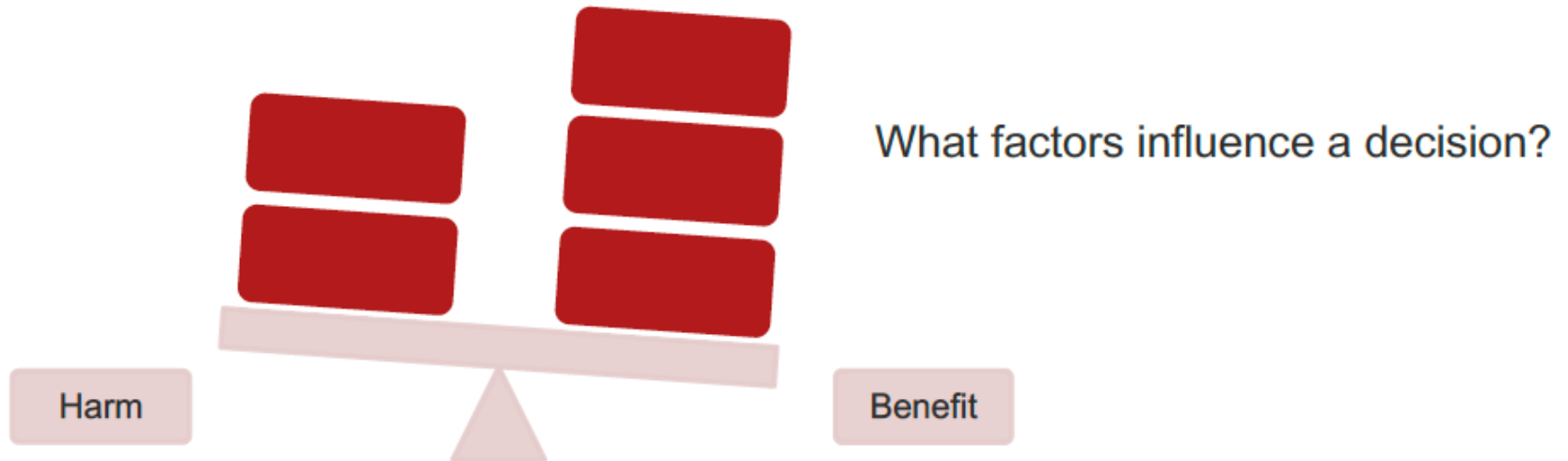
Users	Implication
Patients	Most people in this situation would want the recommended course of action. Only a small proportion would not.
Clinicians	Most patients should receive the recommended course of action.
Policy makers	Recommendation can be adapted as a policy in most situations.

Implication of Weak Recommendation

Users	Implication
Patients	Majority of people in this situation would want the recommended course of action, but many would not.
Clinicians	Clinicians needs to be more prepared to help patients make a decision consistent with their own values; Decision aids and shared decision making
Policy makers	There is a need for substantial debate and involvement of stakeholders.

Evidence to Decision

- Do health benefits outweigh harms?



Questions to Ask

1. Is the problem a priority?
2. Is there important uncertainty about how much people value the outcome?
3. What is the overall certainty of the evidence of effectiveness?
4. How substantial are the [un]desirable anticipated effects?

Questions to Ask

5. Do the desirable effects outweigh undesirable effects?
6. Is it acceptable to key stakeholders? (acceptability)
7. Is it feasible to implement? (feasibility)
8. How large are resource requirements? (affordability)
9. How large is incremental cost vs. net benefit?
(affordability)
10. What would be the impact on health inequities? How
does it align with our values? (ethics and justice)

Many Questions Have No Data

- Individuals, organizations, and jurisdictions will disagree about these issues
- In government, these become questions for democracy rather than science
- Cost can be quantified, but *affordability* is subjective
 - Money spent on X cannot be spent on Y
 - Governor says it affordable, legislature disagrees, and population is divided

Values and Preferences

- How we weigh the potential benefits, harms, costs, limitations, and inconvenience of the management options relative to one another
 - Each of us weighs these differently!
- Best recommendations involve being fully transparent about what you value and prefer

Values and Preferences

- State foundational assumptions about the values and preferences that underlie recommendations
 - e.g., freedom *from* vs. freedom *to*
- Consider recommendations directed to patients who do not share the values and preferences underlying the recommendation
- Disclose information on outcomes the panel judged critical, important, and not important

Why Transparency So Important

- Allows those impacted to understand the rationale
- Makes recommendations credible and acceptable
- Manage conflict of interest
- Acknowledge that recommendations may be different in other settings

We all agree on the evidence (facts), but we disagree on the policy implications.

