



D

Hierarchy of Evidence Guide

Note: Refer to the appropriate Evidence Appraisal Tool (Research [Appendix E] or Nonresearch [Appendix F]) to determine quality ratings.

Appendix D: Hierarchy of Evidence Guide		
	Evidence Level	Types of Evidence
Research Evidence (Appendix E)	Level I	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Experimental study, randomized controlled trial (RCT)• Explanatory mixed methods design that includes only a Level I quantitative study• Systematic review of RCTs, with or without meta-analysis
	Level II	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quasi-experimental study• Explanatory mixed methods design that includes only a Level II quantitative study• Systematic review of a combination of RCTs and quasi-experimental studies, or quasi-experimental studies only, with or without meta-analysis
	Level III	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nonexperimental study• Systematic review of a combination of RCTs, quasi-experimental and nonexperimental studies, or nonexperimental studies only, with or without meta-analysis.• Exploratory, convergent, or multiphasic mixed methods studies• Explanatory mixed methods design that includes only a Level III quantitative study• Qualitative study• Systematic review of qualitative studies with or without meta-synthesis
Nonresearch Evidence (Appendix F)	Level IV	Opinion of respected authorities and/or nationally recognized expert committees or consensus panels based on scientific evidence. Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clinical practice guidelines• Consensus panels/position statements
	Level V	Based on experiential and non-research evidence. Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scoping reviews• Integrative reviews• Literature reviews• Quality improvement, program or financial evaluation• Case reports• Opinion of nationally recognized expert(s) based on experiential evidence