

TABLE OF EVIDENCE LEVELS

– LEVELS OF INDIVIDUAL STUDIES BY DOMAIN, STUDY DESIGN, & QUALITY –

TABLE OF EVIDENCE LEVELS														
<i>DOMAIN OF CLINICAL QUESTION</i>	TYPE OF STUDY / STUDY DESIGN													
	Systematic Review Meta-Analysis	Meta-Synthesis	RCT + CCT +	Psychometric Study	Qualitative Study	Cohort – Prospective	Cohort – Retrospective	Case – Control	Longitudinal (Before/After, Time Series)	Cross – Sectional	Epidemiology Descriptive Study Case Series	Quality Improvement	Economic Analysis Decision Analysis	Expert Opinion Case Reports Guidelines
Treatment / Therapy	1a* 1b*		2a 2b			3a 3b	4a 4b	4a 4b	4a 4b	4a 4b	4a 4b			5a 5b
Diagnosis / Assessment	1a 1b		2a 2b	2a 2b		3a 3b	4a 4b			4a 4b	4a 4b			5a 5b
Prognosis	1a 1b					2a 2b	3a 3b			4a 4b	4a 4b			5a 5b
Etiology / Causation or Prevention or Risk Factors / Harm or Prevalence / Incidence	1a 1b		2a 2b			3a 3b	4a 4b	4a 4b		4a 4b	4a 4b			5a 5b
Economic Analysis or Decision Analysis			2a 2b			3a 3b							1a 1b	5a 5b
Meaning / KAB⁺		1a 1b			2a 2b	3a 3b				4a 4b				5a 5b
Guidelines														5a 5b

* *a* = good quality study

* *b* = lesser quality study

⁺ CCT = Controlled Clinical Trial; KAB = Knowledge, Attitudes, and Beliefs; RCT = Randomized Controlled Trial

Shaded boxes indicate study design may not be appropriate or commonly used for the domain of the clinical question.

Development for this table is based on:

1. Phillips, et al: Oxford Centre for Evidence-based Medicine Levels of Evidence, 2001. Last accessed Nov 14, 2007 from <http://www.cebm.net/index.aspx?o=1025>.
2. Fineout-Overholt and Johnston: Teaching EBP: asking searchable, answerable clinical questions. *Worldviews Evid Based Nurs*, 2(3): 157-60, 2005.