TABLE OF EVIDENCE LEVELS: *Levels of Individual Studies by Domain, Study Design, & Quality*

TYPE OF STUDY / STUDY DESIGN

DOMAIN OF CLINICAL QUESTION	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	Descriptive Study Epidemiology Case Series	Quality Improvement *(PDSA)*	Mixed Methods Study	Decision Analysis Economic Analysis Computer Simulation	Guidelines	Case Reports N-of-1 Study	Bench Study	Published Expert Opinion	Local Consensus Published Abstracts
Intervention *Treatment, Therapy, Prevention, Harm, Quality Improvement*	1a* 1b*	▓	2a 2b	3a 3b	▓	4a 4b	3a 3b	4a 4b	4a 4b	4a 4b	4a 4b	4a 4b	4a 4b	2a/2b 3a/3b 4a/4b	5a 5b	5a 5b	5a 5b	5a 5b	5a 5b	5
Diagnosis / Assessment	1a 1b	▓		2a 2b	2a 2b		3a 3b	4a 4b			4a 4b	4a 4b		2a/2b 3a/3b 4a/4b	5a 5b	5a 5b	5a 5b	5a 5b	5a 5b	5
Prognosis	1a 1b						2a 2b	3a 3b	4a 4b		4a 4b	4a 4b		2/3/4 a/b	5a 5b	5a 5b	5a 5b	5a 5b	5a 5b	5
Etiology / Risk Factors	1a 1b		2a 2b	3a 3b			3a 3b	4a 4b	4a 4b		4a 4b	4a 4b		2/3/4 a/b	5a 5b	5a 5b	5a 5b	5a 5b	5a 5b	5
Incidence	1a 1b						2a 2b	3a 3b				4a 4b				5a 5b	5a 5b	5a 5b	5a 5b	5
Prevalence	1a 1b								2a 2b		3a 3b	4a 4b				5a 5b	5a 5b	5a 5b	5a 5b	5
Meaning / KAB[+]	▓	1a 1b				2a 2b								2/3/4 a/b		5a 5b	5a 5b	5a 5b	5a 5b	5

* *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.