

# Newsletter

Dear members of the Scandinavian GRADE Network,

We are delighted to share with you the exciting progress made during the recent spring GRADE Working Group meeting in Split. Five papers were approved, showcasing significant advancements in GRADE methodology and its application across various domains. These papers, three of which are GRADE guidance papers and two concept papers, are now undergoing final edits by the project teams and approval from the GRADE Guidance Group before being submitted for publication.

GRADE Guidance papers are articles that provide guidance about how to apply and use GRADE (previously called GRADE Guidelines). GRADE Concept papers are articles that discuss concepts to further develop an area relevant to assessing the certainty in evidence and/or supporting recommendations. These articles explicitly discuss the concept that relates to GRADE and how it relates to existing GRADE domains, criteria, and guidance but these concepts are not ready for guidance. Validation of concepts may result in later GRADE guidance.

J. McGowan et al. *Journal of Clinical Epidemiology* 140 (2021) 163–164

## Guidance papers

"GRADE Decision and Judgment Thresholds for EtDs": This guidance paper addresses the challenge of determining decision and judgment thresholds in Evidence to Decision (EtD) frameworks. It will provide valuable guidance on establishing appropriate thresholds for assessing the size of health benefits and harms, facilitating robust evaluations of evidence.

"GRADE Evidence to Decision Framework for Environmental and Occupational Health": Focusing on environmental and occupational health, this guidance paper will offer insights into evaluating evidence and making informed decisions in these domains. It will present a comprehensive framework specifically tailored to address the unique challenges and considerations in environmental and occupational health contexts.

"GRADE Guidance for Rating Dose Response Gradients": This guidance paper will provide an updated and comprehensive guidance on rating the certainty of evidence due to a dose-response gradient. It outlines approaches for assessing credibility, determining the type of estimates applicable to dose-response gradients, and applying these ratings in different decision-making contexts.

Additionally, two concept papers were approved:

"GRADE for Essential Medicines": This concept paper explores the application of GRADE in evaluating and recommending essential medicines. By integrating GRADE into this critical domain, it aims to support transparent decision-making and promote the availability of high-quality essential medicines.

"A novel application of external indirect evidence into GRADE ratings of evidence certainty in Network Meta-analysis": This concept paper shows that for indirect comparisons from network meta-analysis, indirect evidence coming from outside of the included trials may bear in important ways on the inferences one may draw.

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Once the final edits and approval from the GRADE Guidance Group are completed, these papers will be submitted for publication.

We eagerly anticipate their publication as they will undoubtedly have a significant impact on evidence-based medicine and decision-making processes.

As members of the Scandinavian GRADE Network, your expertise and engagement are vital in the dissemination and implementation of GRADE guidance within our region. Let us know if you would be interested in journal clubs based on the papers, when they are published.

Thank you for your continued commitment to evidence-based medicine and the advancement of GRADE methodology. Together, we can drive positive change and improve healthcare decision-making.

## New GRADE publications

- [The development methods of official GRADE articles and requirements for claiming the use of GRADE - a statement by the GRADE Guidance Group](#)
- [GRADE concept 4: rating the certainty of evidence when study interventions or comparators differ from PICO targets](#)

## Conferences

### Cochrane Colloquium in London from 4th to 6th September 2023

Are you attending the Cochrane Colloquium, join the meeting held by the Scandinavian GRADE Network on the 4<sup>th</sup> of September at 13.00-13.45.

Join GRADE working group! Teams signup instructions and FAQ will [you find here](#)

