



EVIDENCE SYNTHESIS  
IRELAND



Cochrane  
Ireland



# GRADE Workshop (In-Person)

## Background

GRADE (Grading of Recommendations, Assessment, Development and Evaluation) is a standardised and transparent approach for assessing the certainty of evidence in systematic reviews and health technology assessments. The system addresses multiple aspects of evidence quality, including methodological limitations, inconsistency, indirectness, imprecision, and publication bias. Developed by an international working group, GRADE has become the standard methodology for assessing the certainty of evidence in systematic reviews and supporting the development of clinical practice guidelines and healthcare recommendations worldwide.

More information on GRADE can be found at:  
<http://de.gradeworkinggroup.org>

## Aim

This two-day workshop guides participants through the comprehensive GRADE methodology, from defining PICO questions and outcomes to creating Summary of Findings tables using GRADEpro GDT software. Through a combination of lectures and hands-on exercises, participants will learn how to assess evidence certainty by evaluating key domains, including methodological limitations, inconsistency, indirectness, imprecision, and publication bias. The workshop also covers evidence upgrading criteria and provides practical experience in creating Summary of Findings tables for systematic reviews of healthcare interventions.

## Date/Time:

**28th & 29th April 2025**  
**10:00 – 16:00**

## Location:

**The National**  
**University of Ireland,**  
**Merrion Square, Dublin**

## Skill level:

**Introductory**

## Prerequisites:

**Attendees should have**  
**knowledge in conducting**  
**and/or using systematic**  
**reviews as well as**  
**the basic principles**  
**of evidence-based**  
**healthcare, and the critical**  
**appraisal of research**  
**studies, especially RCTs**

## Places:

**25**

## Fee:

**€250 (General)**  
**€140 (Student)**

email: [esi@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:esi@universityofgalway.ie) X @EvidSynIRL #evidencesynthesis





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## Learning outcomes

In this course participants will be enabled to:

- Understand the basic principles of the GRADE approach and understand the individual steps in the assessment of the evidence and their impact on the strength of the recommendation
- Be able to create an evidence profile for a therapeutic intervention based on a systematic review
- Have a basic understanding of the GRADEpro GDT Software

## Target Audience

Systematic review authors, guideline developers, health and social care professionals, academics, researchers, postgraduate students, decision makers, Evidence Synthesis Ireland Fellows and other professionals.

## Teaching strategies

The workshop combines interactive lectures with hands-on small group exercises using GRADEpro GDT software. Each evidence assessment domain is taught through presentation followed by practical application.

## Facilitators:

### Prof. Declan Devane

**Current Role:** Professor of Health Research Methodology, University of Galway

Director, Evidence Synthesis Ireland

Director, Cochrane Ireland

**Institution:** University of Galway

### Philipp Kapp, MSc

**Current Role:** Researcher

**Institution:** Institute for Evidence in Medicine (for Cochrane Germany Foundation), Medical Center - University of Freiburg, Faculty of Medicine, University of Freiburg

### Dr KM Saif-Ur-Rahman

**Current Role:** Senior Research Methodologist

**Institution:** Evidence Synthesis Ireland and Cochrane Ireland, University of Galway

email: [esi@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:esi@universityofgalway.ie) X [@EvidSynIRL](https://twitter.com/EvidSynIRL) #evidencesynthesis



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# GRADE Workshop (In-Person)

## Course content/timetable

Day 1		Facilitator
10:00	Welcome, introduction of presenters	Declan
10:15	Presentation: Evidence-based Healthcare - An overview	Saif
10:30	Presentation: What is GRADE - An overview	Saif
10:45	Practical exercise 1 in small groups: Set PICO and outcomes	Saif
11:15	Presentation and discussion of small group exercise 1	
11:30	Break	
11:45	Presentation: Certainty of evidence – Downgrading	Declan
13:00	Lunch	
14:00	Interactive presentation: Introduction to GRADEpro GDT (GRADE software)	Philipp
14:30	Practical exercise 2 in small groups: Assessing the certainty of the evidence (Methodological limitations)	Philipp
15:15	Break	
15:30	Presentation and discussion of small group exercise 2	Philipp
15:45	Wrap up and summary of Day 1	Declan
16:00	Close	

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# GRADE Workshop (In-Person)

## Course content/timetable

Day 2		Facilitator
10:00	Welcome and recap and questions on previous presentations and exercise	All
10:30	Practical exercise 3 in small groups: Assessing the certainty of the evidence (Inconsistency)	Declan
11:15	Presentation and discussion of small group exercise 3	Declan
11:30	Break	
11:45	Practical exercise 4 in small groups: Assessing the certainty of evidence (Indirectness)	Declan
12:30	Presentation and discussion of small group exercise 4	Declan
12:45	Lunch	
13:45	Practical exercise 5 and 6 in small groups: Assessing the certainty of evidence (Imprecision and publication bias)	Saif
14:30	Presentation and discussion of small group exercise 5 and 6	Saif
14:45	Presentation: Certainty of evidence – upgrading	Philipp
15:00	Break	
15:15	Presentation: Creating the final Summary of Findings tables	Philipp
15:30	Wrap up and summary of Day 2	All
16:00	Close	

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