



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.

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:

**9th and 10th March 2026
10:00 – 16:00**

Location:

**Riddell Hall, Queens
University Belfast**

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 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

Professor of Health
Research Methodology,
University of Galway
Director, Evidence Synthesis
Ireland
Director, Cochrane Ireland
University of Galway

Dr Nuala Livingstone

Senior Quality Assurance Editor,
Cochrane Editorial and Methods
Department

Dr KM Saif-Ur-Rahman

Senior Research Methodologist,
Evidence Synthesis Ireland and
Cochrane Ireland, University of
Galway

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Course content/timetable

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

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Course content/timetable

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

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