Systems to rate the strength of scientific evidence
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

Record Status
This is a bibliographic record of a published health technology assessment from a member of INAHTA. No evaluation of the quality of this assessment has been made for the HTA database.

Citation

Authors' objectives
Health care decisions are increasingly being made on research-based evidence, rather than on expert opinion or clinical experience alone. This report examines systematic approaches to assessing the strength of scientific evidence. Such systems allow evaluation of either individual articles or entire bodies of research on a particular subject, for use in making evidence-based health-care decisions. Identification of methods to assess health care research results is a task that Congress directed the Tel: +64 3 364 1145Research and Quality to undertake as part of the Healthcare Research and Quality Act of 1999.

Authors' conclusions
Overall, the authors identified 19 generic systems that fully address their key quality domains for a particular type of study. The authors also identified seven systems that address all three quality domains grading the strength of a body of evidence. The authors also recommended future research areas to bridge gaps where information or empirical documentation is needed. The authors hope that these systems will prove useful to those developing clinical practice guidelines or other health-related policy advice.

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