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## LEVELS OF EVIDENCE AND GRADES OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Evidence Based Health Care -- Practice guidelines levels of evidence and grades of recommendations used by the <u>National Guideline</u> Clearinghouse (http://www.guidelines.gov)

## Levels of Evidence:

- IA Evidence from meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials
- IB Evidence from at least one randomized controlled trial
- IIA Evidence from at least one controlled study without randomization
- IIB Evidence from at least one other type of quasi-experimental study
- Evidence from non-experimental descriptive studies, such as comparative studies, correlation studies, and case-control studies
- Evidence from expert committee reports or opinions or clinical IV experience of respected authorities, or both

## **Grades of Recommendations:**

- A Directly based on Level I evidence
- B Directly based on Level II evidence or extrapolated recommendations from Level I evidence
- C Directly based on Level III evidence or extrapolated recommendations from Level I or II evidence
- D Directly based on Level IV evidence or extrapolated recommendations from Level I. II. or III evidenc

(from Shekelle PG, Woolf SH, Eccles M, Grimshaw J. <u>Developing clinical guidelines</u>
(http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/pmid/18751155/2

(http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/pmid/18751155/? tool=pubmed). West J Med. 170(6):348-51, 1999 June)

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