

Cochrane Methods Training Event

13-15 June 2017

Cochrane GRADE workshop with two streams: Assessing confidence in evidence of effectiveness (GRADE) and in evidence from reviews of qualitative research (GRADE-CERQual)

Venue: [Modena, Italy](#)

Synopsis:

Assessing the quality of the body of evidence using a tool such as the GRADE approach, and justifying these assessments, is mandatory within the Methodological Expectations of Cochrane Intervention Reviews (MECIR) standards. This workshop for editors and staff of Cochrane Review Groups aims to deepen participants' understanding of the GRADE approach

It will provide practical experience of applying the approach to two different streams of evidence:

- 1) evidence from systematic reviews of the effectiveness of interventions and
- 2) evidence from systematic reviews of qualitative evidence (also called qualitative evidence syntheses).

The workshop will cover how to conduct GRADE assessments, how to justify these assessments and how to present evidence and GRADE assessments in Summaries of Findings tables.

We will also consider briefly how different types of evidence (and their GRADE assessments) complement one another and the use of effectiveness evidence and qualitative evidence in Evidence-to-Decision frameworks and other tools to facilitate use of evidence in decision making.

Parallel Training Streams: When applying for the workshop, participants will be asked to select one of the two training streams: **effectiveness evidence** or **qualitative evidence**. The workshop will include shared sessions for both streams on the principles underlying the GRADE approach, on developing and populating Summary of Findings tables and on using evidence from Cochrane reviews in Evidence-to-Decision frameworks.

For the qualitative evidence stream, participants need a basic understanding of primary qualitative research methods. A basic knowledge of qualitative evidence synthesis methods is helpful but not essential.

For the effectiveness evidence stream, participants should be familiar with systematic reviews of effectiveness of interventions, including risk of bias assessment. Knowledge about creating summary of findings tables is desired but not essential.

Participant criteria

To be eligible to attend participants are required to represent a CRG or be a member of the Trainer's Network. They will need the support of their Co-ordinating Editor.

We are limited to 60 participants. Acceptance is on a first come first served basis. However, we do keep a waiting list. There is no charge for this training event.

Stipends – deadline for application 28th February 2017

Participants need to arrange and cover the costs of their travel and accommodation. We encourage CRGs to provide financial support where possible. Cochrane can provide some limited support, based on available funds, to support the following stipends:

- a. Researchers travelling to Italy from within Europe, with contribution costs to travel and accommodation (2 nights).
- b. Researchers from outside Europe with a standard, low cost airfare and contribution to accommodation costs (up to 3 nights).
- c. Researchers from Lower and Middle Income Countries with a standard, low cost airfare and accommodation costs (up to 3 nights)

Course objectives

To deepen understanding and gain practical experience in the GRADE approach as required for one of two different streams of evidence: effectiveness evidence or qualitative evidence.

By the end of this workshop, participants will be able to:

Overall:

- Follow the GRADE approach to evaluate the certainty or confidence in the evidence for effectiveness or qualitative evidence
- Understand how to make Summary of Findings (SoF) tables and the importance of assessing the certainty or confidence of evidence in SoF tables

Effectiveness evidence stream:

- Understand the recent advances for optimal development of SoF tables for evidence of effectiveness
- Experience the GRADE software for developing Summary of Findings Tables for evidence of effectiveness (www.gradepro.org)
- Learn about the development of SoF tables for evidence dealing with patient values and preferences

Qualitative evidence stream:

- Apply the GRADE-CERQual approach to examples of review findings from qualitative evidence syntheses

- Understand the implications for Cochrane reviews and decision making processes of including qualitative evidence

Learning style/format

The workshop will use a combination of short lectures, facilitated small group learning based around worked examples and exercises, and plenary discussion. Participants will be provided with a short reading list in advance of the workshop and will also receive a set of worksheets for the small group sessions.