

WS09

Using the grade approach in Osteoporosis Guideline Development; application and interpretation of indirectness

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The GRADE approach has emerged as a useful method for grading evidence and recommendations in guideline development and it has been adopted by many organizations, including the WHO. However, other organizations still have questions about its usefulness and about practical aspects. The aim of this workshop is to achieve better understanding of the GRADE methodology by using vivid examples on osteoporosis and to provide insight into the practical aspects of using GRADE in guideline development. The target group of the workshop are guideline developers considering using GRADE as well as guideline developers who already have some experience with using GRADE for grading the evidence while developing guidelines.

The Dutch Institute for Healthcare Improvement CBO has recently started a pilot using the GRADE approach for grading the evidence for updating an osteoporosis guideline.

In this workshop, we will present our experiences and will invite discussion about the challenges we encountered and solutions we applied. In addition, we will guide the participants of the workshop through the process of grading, with discussions in small groups about the decisions which are necessary to make in every step of the GRADEing process. In particular, we will discuss the decisions to be made in relation to the item 'indirectness', because the evidence on osteoporosis frequently requires judgments regarding indirectness, for example about the use of surrogate outcomes (bone mineral density; non-clinical vertebral fractures) and applicability of the evidence to other populations than postmenopausal women. For instance, we will deal with the question of whether the studies are generalisable to men, young women or very old women.