

## TYPES OF EVIDENCE

A literature review of relevant studies was conducted to present the state of evidence that currently exists in support of each best practice presented in this resource. Where available, studies that are characterized by good methodological quality and rigorous scientific design, such as systematic reviews (e.g., Cochrane reviews) and meta-analyses, were included. Additional types of evidence were considered and presented, including primary research studies such as randomized control trials, correlation and case-controlled studies, and observational research. We also present best practices that are based on expert opinion, guidelines, and clinical experience of respected authorities as well as experience-informed knowledge, which includes locally-driven change ideas as outlined below in Table 1.

**Table 1: Description of Types of Evidence**<sup>1</sup>

Type of Evidence		Description
High	I	Systematic reviews, meta-analyses
Medium	II	Primary research studies such as randomized control trials and case control analytic studies
Low	III	Descriptive studies, controlled study without randomization, correlation, case studies and grey literature
Expert Opinion	IV	Guidelines, expert committee reports, and clinical experience of respected experts in the field
Experience	V	Locally-driven change ideas that have shown promise and emerging innovations

<sup>1</sup> This classification system was created specifically for the purpose of describing the types of evidence found to support the best practices on the Quality Compass. Several existing classification systems were reviewed and informed the development of this system (e.g. RNAO, GRADE, Canadian Best Practices Portal, IHI Improvement Map, etc.).