

JBI Levels of Evidence

In association with the University of Adelaide

LEVELS OF EVIDENCE FOR EFFECTIVENESS

Level 1 – Experimental Designs

Level 1.a – Systematic review of Randomized Controlled Trials (RCTs)

Level 1.b – Systematic review of RCTs and other study designs

Level 1.c – RCT

Level 1.d – Pseudo-RCTs

Level 2 – Quasi-experimental Designs

Level 2.a – Systematic review of quasi-experimental studies

Level 2.b – Systematic review of quasi-experimental and other lower study designs

Level 2.c – Quasi-experimental prospectively controlled study

Level 2.d – Pre-test – post-test or historic/retrospective control group study

Level 3 – Observational – Analytic Designs

Level 3.a – Systematic review of comparable cohort studies

Level 3.b – Systematic review of comparable cohort and other lower study designs

Level 3.c – Cohort study with control group

Level 3.d – Case – controlled study

Level 3.e – Observational study without a control group

Level 4 – Observational –Descriptive Studies

Level 4.a – Systematic review of descriptive studies

Level 4.b – Cross-sectional study

Level 4.c – Case series

Level 4.d – Case study

Level 5 – Expert Opinion and Bench Research

Level 5.a – Systematic review of expert opinion

Level 5.b – Expert consensus

Level 5.c – Bench research/ single expert opinion