

Appendix 1. GRADE Criteria Used for Grading the Strength of Recommendation (extracted from: Paul E. Stevens, MBBS, BSc, and Adeera Levin, MD, BSc, for the Kidney Disease: Improving Global Outcomes Chronic Kidney Disease Guideline Development Work Group Members\*. Evaluation and Management of Chronic Kidney Disease: Synopsis of the Kidney Disease: Improving Global Outcomes 2012 Clinical Practice Guideline. Ann Intern Med. 2013;158:825-830)

Strength of recommendation	Patients	Clinicians	Policymakers
Strong	Most persons in this situation would—and only a small proportion would not— want the recommended course of action.	Most patients should receive the recommended course of action.	The recommendation can be evaluated as a candidate for developing a policy or a performance measure.
Weak	Most persons in this situation would—but many would not— want the recommended course of action.	Different choices will be appropriate for different patients. Each patient needs help to arrive at a management decision consistent with his or her values and preferences	The recommendation is likely to require substantial debate and involvement of stakeholders before policy can be determined