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Appendix: 4.0 The GRADE Approach to Rating the Evidence

UPDATED RECOMMENDATIONS ON CHLORHEXIDINE-IMPREGNATED (C-I) DRESSINGS
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Updated Recommendations on the Use of Chlorhexidine-Impregnated Dressings for Prevention of Intravascular Catheter-Related Infections (2017)

AT A GLANCE

Appendix: 4.0 The GRADE Approach to Rating the Evidence from the Updated Recommendations on the Use of Chlorhexidine-Impregnated Dressings for Prevention of Intravascular Catheter-Related Infections (2017) guideline.

Table 10. Rating the Evidence for Benefit or Harm Using the GRADE Approach⁹

Type of Evidence: Starting GRADE

- RCT: High
- Observational study: Low

Criteria to Decrease GRADE

- **Study quality limitations** Serious (–1 GRADE) or very serious (–2 GRADE) study quality limitations determined by Risk of Bias Assessments
- **Inconsistency** Important inconsistency (–1 GRADE)
- **Indirectness** Some (–1 GRADE) or major (–2 GRADE) uncertainty about directness
- **Imprecision** Imprecise or sparse data (–1 GRADE)
- **Publication bias** High risk of bias (–1 GRADE)

Criteria to Increase GRADE

- **Strength of association** Strong (+1 GRADE) or very strong evidence of association (+2 GRADE)
- **Dose-response** Evidence of a dose-response gradient (+1 GRADE)
- **Confounding** Inclusion of unmeasured confounders increases the magnitude of effect (+1 GRADE)

Resulting GRADE

- High
- Moderate
- Low
- Very Low

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