RATING SCALE
EVIDENCE-BASED GUIDELINES

Use the following rating scale to answer the questions below:

Rating Scale:
N/A — Not applicable
0 — No
1 — Unclear/ Possibly
2 — Yes

	Rating
Are the recommendations of these guidelines valid?	
Did the article address a focused clinical question?	
Did the article describe the method of identifying studies?	
Is it unlikely that important relevant studies were missed? Databases: Medline, EMBase, Cochrane, Federal Research, Psychlit. Other sources: Searching through the reference lists of selected articles, hand searching select journals. All languages included	
Were the criteria used to select articles for inclusion appropriate? Eligibility criteria / Inclusion criteria / Exclusion criteria	
Was the validity of the included studies assessed? See separate rating scales for validity criteria on Prognosis, Diagnosis, Treatment, etc. What did they do with the assessment? Did they use it to include/exclude studies or to weight their analysis?	
Were the assessments of studies reproducible? More than one assessor for literature search, study selection, validity of studies, data abstraction? Was measure of agreement given [R, Intra Class Correlation (continuous) or Kappa (dichotomous)]?	
What were the results?	
Were the results similar from study to study, ie. are the data combinable? Clinical - comparison of "magnitude" and "direction" of effect from trial to trial. Statistical - chi square, including p value. Were causes of heterogeneity looked for? How do the trials differ in patient characteristics, interventions, outcomes?	
What were the overall results? How precise were the results (95% CI)?	
Are the results *clinically* meaningful or significant?	
Should these guidelines be applied to your practice?	
Who were the stakeholders in the development of these guidelines? Who participated in the design of these guidelines? Expert panel? Appropriate subspecialists involved? Pharmaceutical companies? Would this have biased the recommendations?	
What values were considered in the development of these guidelines? Concensus of panel, financial, tolerability of treatment, quality of life, functional status etc.	
Was a clear description of the weight of the evidence for the guidelines given? Grade of recommendations, Levels of evidence	
Were the consequences of implementation of these guidelines considered? Health costs, resources required, educational requirements, collaboration of colleagues, barriers to implementation	
Total	

Comments: