

## **SDC 1 Grading criteria for primary studies**

Modified from Oxford evidence based Medicine (CEMB) guideline and Clinical Guidance Outcomes Group 2011 “Levels of Evidence and Clinical Guidance Outcomes group”

### **Grade I (strong evidence) --- *Good quality of RCTs***

IA RCT with appropriate randomisation method, blinding, following up >80% and calculation of sample size

IB One or more above criteria

IC None of above criteria

### **Grade II (fairly strong evidence) ---*Non-RCT (CCT) or prospective cohort studies***

IIA Non-RCT or prospective cohort studies with follow up>75%, key characteristics matched between comparison groups, and the effects of important confounding variables adjusted

IIB One or more above criteria

IIC None of above criteria

**Grade III (weaker evidence)— *Pre-post studies, retrospective cohort studies, cross-sectional cohort studies***

**Grade IV (weak evidence) ----*Case-series, case-control studies***