



### Criteria for Levels of Evidence

Evidence-Based Practice	
Group Experimental Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two high quality<sup>1</sup> <i>or</i> a combination of four high and acceptable quality<sup>2</sup> studies using rigorous research designs demonstrating positive effects</li> <li>• Studies must calculate effect size or report data that allows for calculation</li> <li>• Adheres to quality indicators for group experimental designs</li> <li>• No evidence from a high or acceptable quality study demonstrating negative effects</li> </ul>
Single-Case Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A combination of five high<sup>3</sup> or acceptable<sup>4</sup> quality studies using rigorous research designs demonstrating a functional relation</li> <li>• Three independent research teams</li> <li>• Adheres to quality indicators for single-case designs</li> <li>• No evidence from a high or acceptable quality study demonstrating negative effects</li> </ul>
Correlational	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two high quality <i>a priori</i> (planned, hypothesis stated) studies<sup>5</sup> using propensity score modeling/ matching<sup>6</sup> which demonstrate consistent significant correlations between predictor and outcome variables</li> <li>• Studies must calculate effect size or report data that allows for calculation</li> <li>• Adheres to quality indicators for correlational designs</li> <li>• No evidence from a high <i>a priori</i> study demonstrating negative correlations between predictor and outcome variables</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> High quality group experimental study must meet 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9 & 10 and 5 or 7 of EQIs and at least 4 of the DQIs [Quality Indicator Checklist for Group Experimental Research](#)

<sup>2</sup> Acceptable quality group experimental study must meet 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9 & 10 and 5 or 7 of EQIs and at least 1 of the DQIs Must calculate effect size or report data that allows for calculation [Quality Indicator Checklist for Group Experimental Research](#)

<sup>3</sup> High quality single-case study meets all quality indicators [Quality Indicator Checklist for Single-Case Research](#)

<sup>4</sup> Acceptable quality single-case study meets all QIs except 2 & meets one of 17-20 [Quality Indicator Checklist for Single-Case Research](#)

<sup>5</sup> High quality *a priori* studies must meet all quality indicators for correlational research

<sup>6</sup> High quality propensity score modeling studies must meet all quality indicators for correlational research

<b>Research-Based Practice</b>	
Group Experimental Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two studies using rigorous research designs demonstrating positive effects (may or may not have not been reviewed for quality indicators)</li> <li>• Studies must calculate effect size or report data that allows for calculation</li> <li>• There are more studies using rigorous research designs showing demonstrating effects than studies using rigorous research designs demonstrating negative effects</li> </ul>
Single-Case Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three studies using rigorous research designs demonstrating a functional relation (may or may not have not been reviewed for quality indicators)</li> <li>• Two independent research teams</li> <li>• There are more studies using rigorous research designs showing demonstrating effects than studies using rigorous research designs demonstrating negative effects</li> </ul>
Correlational	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A combination of two high or acceptable quality<sup>1</sup> <i>a priori</i> studies demonstrating consistent significant correlations between predictor and outcome</li> <li>• Studies must calculate effect size or report data that allows for calculation</li> <li>• There are more high or acceptable quality <i>a priori</i> studies demonstrating positive correlations than high or acceptable quality <i>a priori</i> studies demonstrating negative correlations</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Acceptable quality *a priori* studies must meet 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 of the QIs for correlational research

<b>Promising Practice</b>	
Group Experimental Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One study using a rigorous research design demonstrating positive effects -or-</li> <li>• Two studies using a weak research design demonstrating positive effects</li> </ul>
Single-Case Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One study using a rigorous research design demonstrating positive effects -or-</li> <li>• Two studies using a weak research design demonstrating positive effects</li> </ul>
Correlational	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One acceptable quality <i>a priori</i> study with consistent significant correlations between predictor and outcome -or-</li> <li>• Two acceptable quality<sup>1</sup> exploratory (no specific hypothesis) studies with significant correlations between predictor and outcome</li> </ul>
Qualitative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One quality<sup>2</sup> qualitative research study</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Acceptable quality exploratory studies must meet 1, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 quality indicators for correlational research

<sup>2</sup> Quality qualitative studies must meet 1,2,4,5,6,7 and relevant data collection method quality indicators for qualitative research

<b>Unestablished Practice</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Descriptive studies, anecdotal evidence, or professional judgement articles describing a practice</li> <li>• More acceptable or high quality studies demonstrating negative effects, than quality studies demonstrating positive effects</li> </ul>