

Levels of Evidence

Level and Quality of Evidence	Type of Evidence
Level I	Meta-analysis or systematic review of multiple controlled studies or clinical trials
Level II	Individual experimental studies with randomization
Level III	Quasi-experimental studies such as non-randomized controlled single group pre-post, cohort, time series, or matched case-controlled studies
Level IV	Non-experimental studies, such as comparative and correlational descriptive research as well as qualitative studies
Level V	Program evaluation, research utilization, quality improvement projects; case reports (JCAHO Sentinel Event Reports), benchmarking studies (NDNQI data, UHC reports) or Clinical Practice Guidelines
Level VI	Opinions of respected authorities; or the opinions of expert committee, including their interpretation of non-research-based information. This includes textbooks and clinical product guidelines.

Strongest evidence



Weakest evidence

Adapted from: Stetler, C. B., Brunell, M., Giuliano, K. K., Morsi, D., Prince, L., Newell-Stokes, V. (1998). Evidence-based practice and the role of nursing leadership. *Journal of Nursing Administration*, 28(7), 45-53.