

Evidence to Decision (EtD) framework



Purpose of EtD frameworks

The purpose of EtD frameworks is to help groups of people (panels) making healthcare recommendations or decisions move from evidence to decisions.

EtD frameworks:

- Inform panel members' judgements about the pros and cons of each intervention that is considered
- Ensure that important factors that determine a decision (criteria) are considered
- Provide a concise summary of the best available research evidence to inform judgements about each criterion
- Help structure discussion and identify reasons for disagreements
- Make the basis for decisions transparent to guideline users or those affected by a policy decision

Development

The EtD frameworks are being developed as part of the DECIDE project using an iterative process. The starting point for EtD frameworks was the GRADE Working Group's approach for going from evidence to clinical recommendations. Development of the EtD frameworks has included a review of relevant literature, brain storming, feedback from stakeholders, application of the framework to examples, surveys of stakeholders and user testing.

Description

EtD frameworks include key background information, criteria for making a decision, and conclusions. The background includes details of the question addressed by the framework and a brief summary of information that the panel (or others) need to know in order to understand the question and why a recommendation or decision is needed.

The criteria include the following:

- **Criteria** (factors that should be considered) for making the decision
- **Judgements** that the panel members must make in relation to each criterion, which can be draft judgements suggested by the people who have prepared the framework or judgements made by the panel
- **Research evidence** to inform each of those judgements, which may include links to more detailed summaries of the evidence
- **Additional considerations** that inform or justify each judgement

The conclusions are those reached by the panel, but may include draft conclusions suggested by the people who have prepared the framework. The conclusions, based on the judgements made for all of the criteria, include:

- **A summary of the judgements** made for all of the criteria and the implications of those for the decision
- **The type of decision or recommendation** (e.g. a strong or weak recommendation for or against the intervention)
- **The decision or recommendation** in concise, clear and actionable text
- **The justification for the decision or recommendation**, flowing from the judgements in relation to the criteria
- **Any subgroup considerations** that the panel took into account when making a decision
- **Key implementation considerations** (in addition to any that are specified in the recommendation), including strategies to address any concerns about the acceptability and feasibility of the intervention
- **Suggestions for monitoring and evaluation** if the intervention is implemented, including any important indicators that should be monitored and any needs for further evaluation
- **Research priorities** in relation to the intervention (if relevant)

Templates for different categories of decisions

We have developed different EtD framework templates to help groups of people (panels) making different types of recommendations or decisions:

Clinical practice guidelines

These templates are designed to help guideline panels make recommendations for clinicians and patients about preventive, therapeutic, rehabilitative or diagnostic interventions.

Clinical recommendation – individual patient perspective: This template is for recommendations for individual patients and clinicians made from the perspective of individual patients.

Clinical recommendation – population perspective: This template is for recommendations for individual patients and clinicians from the perspective of the population that is affected (e.g. a societal, government, department of health or health insurer's or hospital's perspective). These recommendations may also be targeted at policymakers or managers.

Diagnostic intervention – clinical recommendation, population perspective: This template is for recommendations about diagnostic interventions when there is not direct evidence of the effects of the diagnostic intervention on patient outcomes resulting from management decisions based on the test results. These recommendations are for individual patients and clinicians from the perspective of the

population that is affected (e.g. a societal, government, department of health or health insurer or hospital's perspective). These recommendations may also be targeted at policymakers or managers.

Multiple options – clinical recommendation, population perspective: This template is for recommendations about preventive, therapeutic or rehabilitative interventions when there are more than two options being compared. These recommendations are for individual patients and clinicians from the perspective of the population that is affected (e.g. a societal, government, department of health or health insurer or hospital's perspective). These recommendations may also be targeted at policymakers or managers.

Health system and public health guidelines

This template is designed to help guideline panels make recommendations for policymakers and managers responsible for making decisions on behalf of a population about health system or public health interventions that are targeted at a population (or that affect the ability of individuals to make their own choices).

Health system or public health recommendation: This template is for recommendations about health system or public health interventions where decisions must be made by a group of people on behalf of the population that will be affected by those decisions. These recommendations are for policymakers, managers and stakeholders (those affected) with an interest in these decisions.

Decisions

These templates are designed to help groups of people who make decisions on behalf of a population, including decisions about which clinical interventions are paid for by a third party (coverage decisions), health system and public health decisions that are made for a population and not by individuals.

Coverage decision: This template is for groups of people who make decisions about which clinical interventions are paid for (covered) by health insurance, a publicly funded healthcare system or a health maintenance organisation.

Additional templates (not yet available):

- **Diagnostic intervention** – *clinical recommendation, individual patient perspective*
- **Multiple options** – *clinical recommendation, individual patient perspective*
- **Multiple options for diagnostic interventions** – *clinical recommendation, population perspective*
- **Multiple options for diagnostic interventions** – *clinical recommendation, individual patient perspective*
- **Multiple options for health system or public health interventions** – *recommendations*
- **Multiple options for coverage decisions**
- **Health system or public health decisions**
- **Multiple options for health system or public health decisions**

The EtD frameworks are flexible. Organisations may elect to modify these templates, including the terminology (and language) that is used, the criteria, the response options for criteria, the use of detailed

judgements and guidance for using the framework to ensure that the framework is fit for purpose.

The interactive framework (iEtD)

The purpose of iEtD tool is to facilitate use of EtD frameworks by guideline developers, health technology assessment agencies, policymakers and managers. It enables organisations to:

- Create tailored templates for making decisions or recommendations by
 - Selecting and modifying criteria for specific categories of decisions or recommendations
 - Modifying the types of decisions or recommendations and other elements of the conclusions
 - Modifying the terms that are used, explanations and guidance
- Create tailored templates for publishing elements of EtD frameworks in reports
- Create tailored, interactive end-user summaries of recommendations or decisions and elements of EtD frameworks for targeted audiences

End-user summaries can include interactive functions, such as interactive Summary of Findings (iSoF) tables. These include features such as cursor over explanations and links to more detailed explanations, hypertext links to detailed information or reports, being able to view more or less information and, when relevant, being able to select or insert specific information, such as baseline risks.

Using the frameworks

Word documents:

www.decide-collaboration.eu/WP5/Strategies/Framework

Interactive framework:

ietd.epistemonikos.org

If you just want to take a look at the full report for users, or to specific user formats (clinicians, patients and policy-makers) just click in the links provided in the home page of iEtD.

You can also try the different editing roles that iEtD users can have, but you will have to create an account:

1. To enter as a *project administrator* (technical team responsible for filling in an EtD framework):

Go to: ietd.epistemonikos.org

Click on: “Register” in the login box or in top menu

Organisation: Choose “Edinburgh 2014”

There will be some prefilled frameworks that you can copy and then modify. You can also create your own projects and/or frameworks. Don’t worry if you are using inaccurate or even mockup data. All these frameworks will be deleted after the conference.

2. To enter as a *super administrator* (the person in charge of an organization):

Organisation: Choose “Test organisation”

You can create your own templates modifying GRADE standard templates, and you will be able to manage the different tasks that are part of the role of super administrator.

The iEtD is optimized for use in Chrome browser.



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