

## The Hierarchy of Evidence

The Hierarchy of evidence is based on summaries from the National Health and Medical Research Council (2009), the Oxford Centre for Evidence-based Medicine Levels of Evidence (2011) and Melynyk and Fineout-Overholt (2011).

- I Evidence obtained from a systematic review of all relevant randomised control trials.
- II Evidence obtained from at least one well designed randomised control trial.
- III Evidence obtained from well-designed controlled trials without randomisation.
- IV Evidence obtained from well designed cohort studies, case control studies, interrupted time series with a control group, historically controlled studies, interrupted time series without a control group or with case- series
- V Evidence obtained from systematic reviews of descriptive and qualitative studies
- VI Evidence obtained from single descriptive and qualitative studies
- VII Expert opinion from clinicians, authorities and/or reports of expert committees or based on physiology

Melynyk, B. & Fineout-Overholt, E. (2011). *Evidence-based practice in nursing & healthcare: A guide to best practice (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.)*. Philadelphia: Wolters Kluwer, Lippincott Williams & Wilkins.

National Health and Medical Research Council (2009). *NHMRC levels of evidence and grades for recommendations for developers of guidelines* (2009). Australian Government: NHMRC.  
[http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/files/nhmrc/file/guidelines/evidence\\_statement\\_form.pdf](http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/files/nhmrc/file/guidelines/evidence_statement_form.pdf)

OCEBM Levels of Evidence Working Group Oxford (2011). *The Oxford 2011 Levels of Evidence*. Oxford Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine. <http://www.cebm.net/index.aspx?o=1025>

<b>Reference (include title, author, journal title, year of publication, volume and issue, pages)</b>	<b>Evidence level (I-VII)</b>	<b>Key findings, outcomes or recommendations</b>
High Dependency Admission and Discharge criteria. <i>Royal Children's Hospital May 2011</i>	VII	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Definition of HDU patients</li> <li>● Outline of current HDU classification practices at RCH</li> <li>● Currently used clinical codes explained in detail</li> <li>● Current discharge practices from HDU to standard care</li> </ul>
Day H; Allen Z; Llwellyn L (2005). High Dependency Care: a model for development. <i>Paediatric Nursing vol 17 no3 24-28</i>	V	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Definition of High Dependency Care</li> <li>● Results from implementation of a clinical model for delivering high dependency care.</li> <li>● Ward nurses poor at recognizing patients as high dependency.</li> <li>● Outreach services from PICU to support and facilitate assessment of high dependency patients</li> <li>● Findings of reduced number of unplanned admission to PICU through enabling ward nurses to care for high dependency patients</li> </ul>
<i>High Dependency Care for Children- Report of Expert Advisory Group for Department of Health 2001 United Kingdom</i>	VII	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Identification of High Dependency patients</li> <li>● Guidelines for care in acute Hospitals</li> <li>● Aim of guideline to ensure appropriate levels of care for sick children, how to best utilize staff and reduce demands on PICU</li> <li>● All Hospitals that care for Children should have High Dependency guidelines in place</li> <li>● Detailed list of disorders and illnesses contributing to HDU care.</li> </ul>
Nurses (Victorian Health Sector) Multiple Business Agreement 2007-2011 p121-122	VII	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Evidence of agreed current nurse patient ratios in acute public hospital settings.</li> </ul>
Bernadette Twomey. Executive Director Nursing Services	VII	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Expert Opinion</li> </ul>