

Grading of evidence for infection control:

To date, within the field of infection control, best practice guidelines and recommendations have largely been based on common sense and principles of good practice. As is evident from review of the literature in relation to standard infection control precautions, empirical evidence to support particular infection measures is often limited. For the purposes of this project, identified articles were subjected to critical appraisal using Roe's (1993) model which considers the appropriateness of study objectives, design, sample and research methods; however, given the limited number of robustly designed studies undertaken (e.g. randomised controlled trials) and the abundance of published guidance material, quantitative analysis could not consistently be applied and therefore grading of the evidence has not been presented within the work undertaken. Research gaps identified through review of the literature have been highlighted and as these are addressed, the field of infection control will change and develop and appraisal of studies will likewise need to be amended.

Model for Critical Appraisal of Studies: Roe B (1993) Undertaking a critical review of the literature, *Nurse Researcher*, 1(1): 38-9. This can be viewed at <http://www.documents.hps.scot.nhs.uk/hai/infection-control/model-policy/roes-model.pdf>