

# AORN Hierarchy of Evidence

RESEARCH

NON-RESEARCH

**I**

SYSTEMATIC REVIEW – All studies RCTs  
RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED TRIAL (RCT)

**II**

SYSTEMATIC REVIEW – All studies Quasi-Experimental or a combination of  
RCTs and Quasi-Experimental  
QUASI-EXPERIMENTAL

**III**

SYSTEMATIC REVIEW – All studies Non-Experimental or a combination of  
RCTs, Quasi-Experimental, and Non-Experimental  
Any or all studies Qualitative  
NON-EXPERIMENTAL  
QUALITATIVE

**IV**

CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINE  
CONSENSUS or POSITION STATEMENT

**V**

LITERATURE REVIEW  
CASE REPORT  
EXPERT OPINION  
ORGANIZATIONAL EXPERIENCE

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