

# AORN Hierarchy of Evidence

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
NON-RESEARCH	IV	CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINE CONSENSUS or POSITION STATEMENT
	V	LITERATURE REVIEW CASE REPORT EXPERT OPINION ORGANIZATIONAL EXPERIENCE

Copyright © AORN Inc, 2026