Additional file 2:

Levels of Evidence

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| **Research evidence** | |
| Level A1  Level A2 | Systematic reviews of randomised clinical trials, meta-analyses or multiple randomised clinical trials with sources available in decision aid or associated documents |
| Systematic reviews of randomised clinical trials, meta-analyses or multiple randomised clinical trials but sources are not available in decision aid or associated documents |
| Level B1  Level B2 | Systematic reviews of non-randomised studies, a single randomised clinical trial or large non-randomised studies with sources available in decision aid or associated documents |
| Systematic reviews of non-randomised studies, a single randomised clinical trial or large non-randomised studies but sources are not available in decision aid or associated documents |
| Level C1  Level C2 | Small non-randomised studies, retrospective studies or registries with sources available in decision aid or associated documents |
| Small non-randomised studies, retrospective studies or registries but sources are not available in decision aid or associated documents |
| Level D1  Level D2 | Research evidence elicited but sources unclear |
| Use of research evidence not evident |

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| **Practice evidence** | |
| Level A1  Level A2 | Expert or clinical consensus (≥15 participants) obtained directly or through published evidence with evidence type explicitly presented and evidence sources are available in decision aid or associated documents |
| Expert or clinical opinion (≥15 participants) obtained directly or through published evidence but evidence type is not explicitly presented and/or evidence sources are not available in decision aid or associated documentation |
| Level B1  Level B2 | Expert or clinical opinion (<15 participants) obtained directly or through published evidence with evidence type explicitly presented and evidence sources are available in decision aid or associated documentation |
| Expert or clinical opinion (<15 participants) obtained directly or through published evidence but evidence type is not explicitly presented and/or evidence sources are not available in decision aid or associated documentation |
| Level C1  Level C2 | Expert or clinical opinion elicited through non-research based or informal methods with evidence type explicitly presented in decision aid and evidence sources are available in decision aid or associated documentation |
| Expert or clinical opinion elicited through non-research based or informal methods but evidence type is not explicitly presented and/or sources are not available in decision aid or associated documentation |
| Level D | No expert opinion |

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| **Patient evidence** | |
| Level A1  Level A2 | Patient consensus (≥ 15 participants) obtained directly or through published evidence with evidence type explicitly presented and evidence sources are available in decision aid or associated documentation |
| Patient consensus (≥ 15 participants) obtained directly or through published evidence but evidence type is not explicitly presented and/or sources are not available in decision aid or associated documentation |
| Level B1  Level B2 | Patient opinion (<15 participants) obtained directly or through published evidence with evidence type explicitly presented and evidence sources are available in decision aid or associated documentation |
| Patient opinion (<15 participants) obtained directly or through published evidence but evidence type is not explicitly presented and/or sources are not available in decision aid or associated documentation |
| Level C1  Level C2 | Patient opinion elicited through non-research based or informal methods with evidence type explicitly presented and evidence sources are available in decision aid or associated documentation |
| Patient opinion elicited through non-research based or informal methods but evidence type is not explicitly presented and/or sources are not available in decision aid or associated documentation |
| Level D | No patient opinion |

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| **Pragmatic/Contextual Evidence** | |
| Level A | Includes multiple (>2) pragmatic/contextual factors (e.g. time, cost, resources) for each treatment option |
| Level B | Includes at least 1-2 pragmatic/contextual factors (e.g. time, cost, resources) for each treatment option |
| Level C | Does not include any pragmatic/contextual factors |