



NCCN Evidence Blocks™

User Guide

In cancer care, the most important value perspective is that of the individual patient. NCCN Evidence Blocks™ educate providers and patients about the efficacy, safety, and affordability of systemic therapy. NCCN Evidence Blocks™ are a starting point for shared decision-making based on a common vocabulary of choices and values.

The NCCN Evidence Blocks™ are published in a new version of the NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology (NCCN Guidelines®) and are intended as a visual representation of five key value measures that provide important information about specific NCCN Guidelines® recommendations: efficacy, safety, quality and quantity of evidence, consistency of evidence, and affordability.

By adding affordability to the existing National Comprehensive Cancer Network® (NCCN®) criteria for evaluating treatment options, patients will be empowered to identify, alongside their physician, optimal treatment based on clinical and economic considerations that are of most value to them.

NCCN Guidelines with NCCN Evidence Blocks™ are an additional NCCN resource—separate from the NCCN Guidelines—that are currently available free of charge on NCCN.org. NCCN intends for the library of NCCN Guidelines with NCCN Evidence Blocks™ for systemic therapies to be published by the end of 2017.

For more information, visit NCCN.org/EvidenceBlocks.

NCCN EVIDENCE BLOCKS™ CATEGORIES AND DEFINITIONS

5							
4							
3							
2							
1							
	E	S	Q	C	A		

E = Efficacy of Regimen/Agent
S = Safety of Regimen/Agent
Q = Quality of Evidence
C = Consistency of Evidence
A = Affordability of Regimen/Agent

Efficacy of Regimen/Agent

5	Highly effective: Cure likely and often provides long-term survival advantage
4	Very effective: Cure unlikely but sometimes provides long-term survival advantage
3	Moderately effective: Modest impact on survival, but often provides control of disease
2	Minimally effective: No, or unknown impact on survival, but sometimes provides control of disease
1	Palliative: Provides symptomatic benefit only

Safety of Regimen/Agent

5	Usually no meaningful toxicity: Uncommon or minimal toxicities; no interference with activities of daily living (ADLs)
4	Occasionally toxic: Rare significant toxicities or low-grade toxicities only; little interference with ADLs
3	Mildly toxic: Mild toxicity that interferes with ADLs
2	Moderately toxic: Significant toxicities often occur but life threatening/fatal toxicity is uncommon; interference with ADLs is frequent
1	Highly toxic: Significant toxicities or life threatening/fatal toxicity occurs often; interference with ADLs is usual and severe

Note: For significant chronic or long-term toxicities, score decreased by 1

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NCCN EVIDENCE BLOCKS™ EXAMPLE

5							
4							
3							
2							
1							
	E	S	Q	C	A		

E = 4
S = 4
Q = 3
C = 4
A = 3

Quality of Evidence

5	High quality: Multiple well-designed randomized trials and/or meta-analyses
4	Good quality: One or more well-designed randomized trials
3	Average quality: Low quality randomized trial(s) or well-designed non-randomized trial(s)
2	Low quality: Case reports or extensive clinical experience
1	Poor quality: Little or no evidence

Consistency of Evidence

5	Highly consistent: Multiple trials with similar outcomes
4	Mainly consistent: Multiple trials with some variability in outcome
3	May be consistent: Few trials or only trials with few patients, whether randomized or not, with some variability in outcome
2	Inconsistent: Meaningful differences in direction of outcome between quality trials
1	Anecdotal evidence only: Evidence in humans based upon anecdotal experience

Affordability of Regimen/Agent (includes drug cost, supportive care, infusions, toxicity monitoring, management of toxicity)

5	Very inexpensive
4	Inexpensive
3	Moderately expensive
2	Expensive
1	Very expensive