## Appendix 1

### Summary of the modified GRADE system

BHIVA revised and updated the association’s guideline development manual in 2011 [1]. BHIVA has adopted the modified Grading of Recommendations Assessment, Development and Evaluation (GRADE) system for the assessment, evaluation and grading of evidence and the development of recommendations [2,3].

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Recommendation</th>
<th>Evidence Quality</th>
<th>Benefits vs. Risk</th>
<th>Further Research</th>
<th>Clinicians Advice</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1A</td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>High-quality</td>
<td>Clear benefit</td>
<td>Unlikely to change</td>
<td>Follow unless clear rationale for alternative approach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1B</td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Moderate-quality</td>
<td>Clear benefit</td>
<td>May impact on confidence</td>
<td>Follow unless clear and compelling rationale for alternative approach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1C</td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Low-quality</td>
<td>Possible benefit</td>
<td>May be of low quality</td>
<td>Follow unless clear and compelling rationale for alternative approach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1D</td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Very low-quality</td>
<td>Possible benefit</td>
<td>May be of low quality</td>
<td>Follow unless clear and compelling rationale for alternative approach</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2A
Weak recommendation.
High-quality evidence.
Benefits closely balanced with risks and burdens
Consistent evidence from well performed randomised, controlled trials or overwhelming evidence of some other form. Further research is unlikely to change our confidence in the estimate of benefit and risk.
Weak recommendation, best action may differ depending on circumstances or patients or societal values.

2B
Weak recommendation.
Moderate-quality evidence.
Benefits closely balanced with risks and burdens, some uncertainly in the estimates of benefits, risks and burdens.
Evidence from randomised, controlled trials with important limitations (inconsistent results, methods flaws, indirect or imprecise). Further research may change the estimate of benefit and risk.
Weak recommendation, alternative approaches likely to be better for some patients under some circumstances.

2C
Weak recommendation.
Low-quality evidence.
Uncertainty in the estimates of benefits, risks, and burdens; benefits may be closely balanced with risks and burdens.
Evidence from observational studies, unsystematic clinical experience, or from randomised, controlled trials with serious flaws. Any estimate of effect is uncertain. Weak recommendation; other alternatives may be reasonable.

2D
Weak recommendation.
Very low-quality evidence.
Uncertainty in the estimates of benefits, risks, and burdens; benefits may be closely balanced with risks and burdens.
Evidence limited to case studies and expert judgment.
Very weak recommendation; other alternatives may be equally reasonable.

References