



The Assess-Advise-Decide Approach to chairside CDS tool use

What is it?

The Assess-Advise-Decide Approach is a patient-centered outcomes approach: For patients to **decide** their best course of action, clinicians' need to **advise** based upon what is **assessed**. This approach is designed to simplify and clarify chairside clinical decision-making by organizing the process into an easy-to-remember and quick-to-adopt 3-step approach: **Assess-Advise-Decide**.

The approach is consistent with the evidence-based medicine core concept of enabling patients to make better decisions. The Assess-Advise-Decide Approach is incorporated into the 3 EB-CDS tools introduced at the 2008 EBD Champion Conference to assist in tool adoption and use.

Assess

Clinician assessment step includes:

- Take a thorough history
- Clarify and understand patient preferences and values
- Perform an appropriate clinical assessment
- Select and perform appropriate diagnostic tests
- Perform an appropriate risk factor assessment
- Determine appropriate treatment/management options
- Understand the strength of evidence/strength of recommendation supporting differential diagnoses and treatment/management options

Advise

Clinician advice step includes:

- Review of findings: clinical evaluation & risk factor assessment
- Advise patient about treatment/management options*:
 - Potential options
 - EBDM-filtered options
 - Clinician-filtered EBDM options
- Review of risks and benefits

* Summarize strength of evidence/strength of recommendations as needed.

Decide

Patient Decision Step:

Based on what they have been advised as well as on their personal experience, judgment, preferences and values, patients will be in a better position to make appropriate decisions. These decisions will be risk adjusted, evidence-based, clinician judgment/experience-guided and patient-preferred.

EB-CDS chairside tools incorporating the Assess-Advise-Decide Approach are designed to be simple and easy-to-use. They support the clinician by facilitating clinical decision-making as well as knowledge transfer to the patient rapidly and effectively at the point of care.