

Supplementary file 1: Decision matrix

Contextual level of influence	Description of Criteria used to determine level of influence.	Example in general practice context
Individual	The primary focus of the study was to seek understanding about or to effect change at an individual/ patient/ consumer	A study to ask patients about their personal views on advance care planning
Interpersonal	the primary focus of the study was to seek understanding about or to effect change at a relationship level - involving family, friends, trusted others including relationships with health care providers	A study exploring predominately interpersonal considerations for example a link between the likelihood of engaging in ACP discussion after experience of caring for someone at end of life
Provider	If the primary focus of the study was to seek understanding about or to effect change at a provider level within general practice including knowledge, attitudes practices	A study to measure provider knowledge of ACP
System	If the primary focus of the study was to seek understanding about organizational processes and practice infrastructure with regard to ACP	A study to test the efficacy of a range of ACP discussion tools in increasing ACP uptake
Multi-level	If the interventions described in the study had a focus on or sought to determine effect or influence across more than one contextual level of influence	A study with a multi pronged approach – for example to test efficacy of written material for patients, combined with an activity focused on provider education about ACP, and sending IT prompts for providers during patient consultations would be an example of a complex intervention across multi-levels of influence.