

# What is the quality of evidence informing Australian vaccine clinical practice recommendations?

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# Conflict of Interest

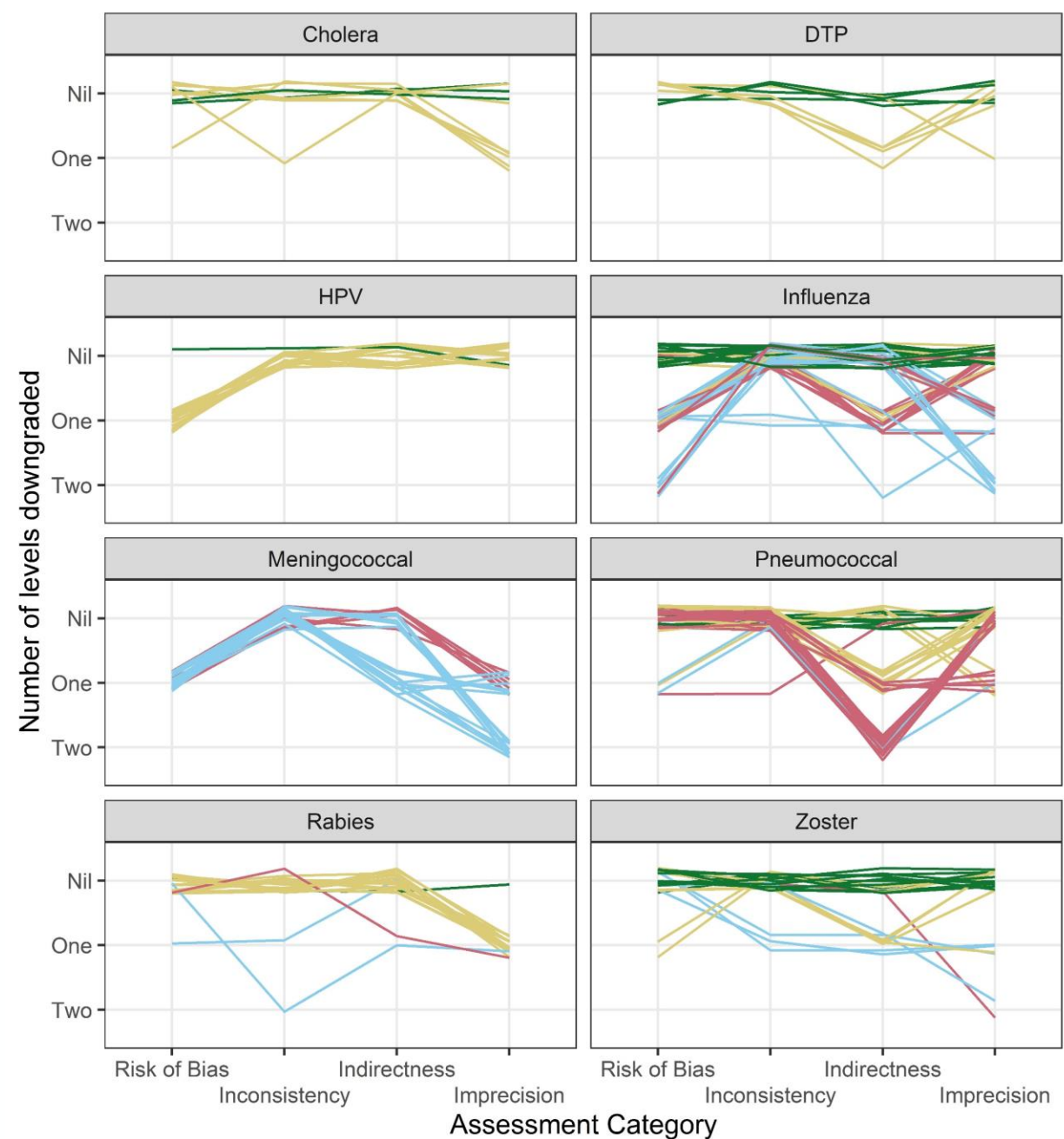
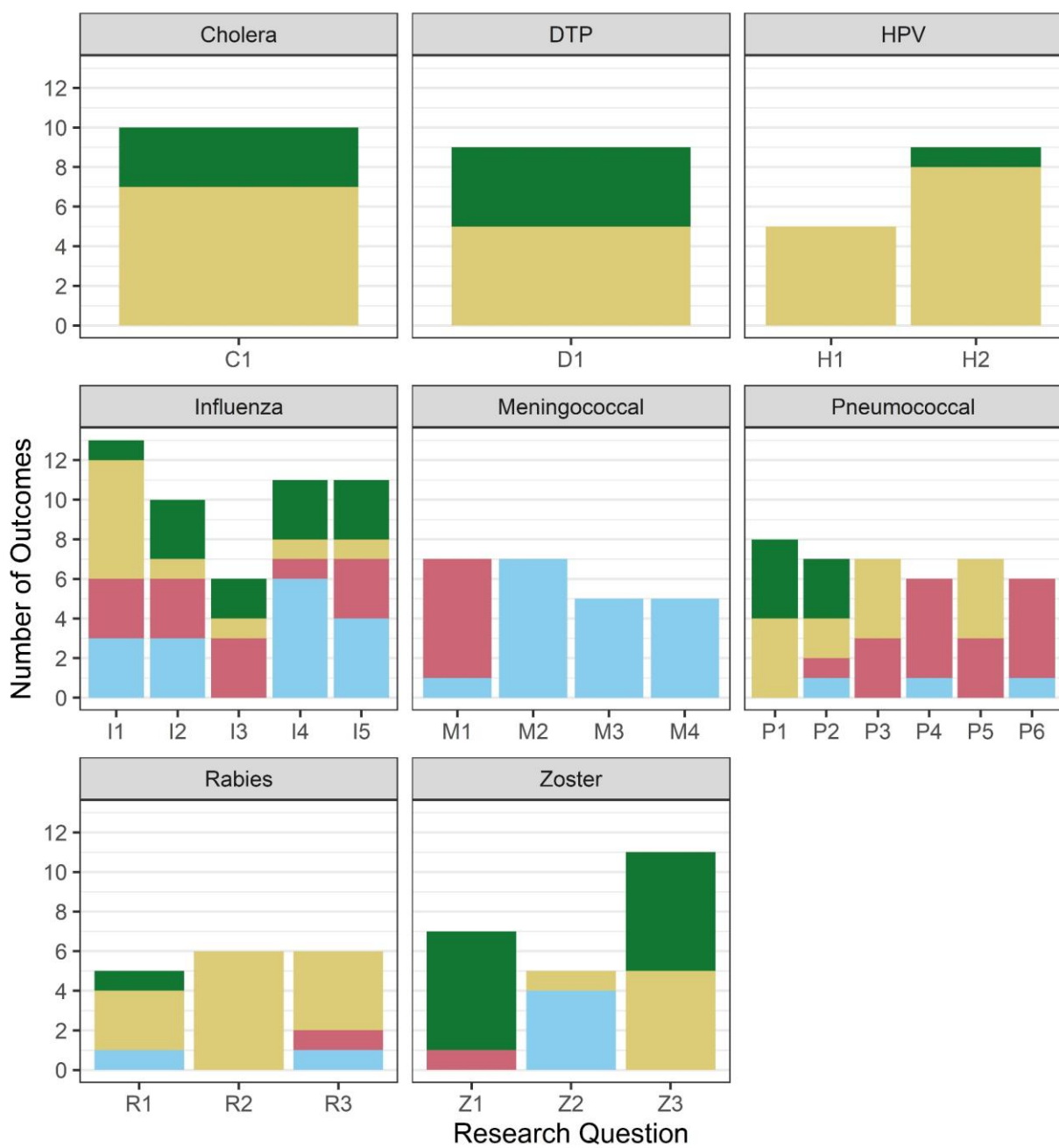
- Co-author (TS) was previously a paid member of the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) during the period July 2019 to June 2023.
- There are no other potential conflicts of interest to declare.

# Vaccine clinical practice recommendations in Australia

- ATAGI make recommendations to the Department of Health and Aged Care
- Recommendations approved by NHMRC are implemented in the Australian Immunisation Handbook
- Decision-making process is transparently documented
- GRADE method implemented by NCIRS assesses evidence *certainty*
- We summarised the available GRADE assessments for vaccines preventing cholera, DTP, HPV, influenza, meningococcal, pneumococcal, rabies and varicella zoster virus

## Grading of Recommendations Assessment, Development and Evaluation (GRADE)

- Set policy question (including outcomes) and identify literature (studies)
- Outcomes assessed for *risk of bias, inconsistency, indirectness* and *imprecision*
- Determine outcome-specific and overall GRADEs
  - Very low, low, moderate or high *certainty* of evidence
- Make recommendations (or no recommendations)
- Overall, **56%** of policy questions received a GRADE of **low\*** or **very low\***
- Reasons were:
  - Potential confounding (e.g., when only observational data was available)
  - Mismatch between policy question and study-specific research question
  - Uncertainty in effect estimation (i.e., lack of precision)



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