**Consideration for Use of Probiotics in Gastrointestinal Diseases**

**Adult and Children**

**C. difficile Infection**
- Treatment of C. difficile Infection
- Prevention of C. difficile Infection

**Inflammatory Bowel Disease**
- Crohn’s Disease
- Ulcerative Colitis

**Irritable Bowel Syndrome**
- No recommendations, Knowledge gap

**Irritable Bowel Syndrome**
- Suggest the use of a specific combination probiotic* over no or other probiotics (Conditional, Very Low)

* S. casei, L. plantarum, L. acidophilus, L. delbrueckii subsp. bulgaricus, B. longum, B. breve, B. infantis, and S. salivarius subsp. thermophilus

**Children**

**Acute Infections Gastroenteritis**
- Suggest against use of Probiotics (Conditional, moderate)

**Prevention of Necrotizing Enterocolitis in Preterm infant (<36 weeks)**
- Suggest using select probiotics over no or other probiotics (Conditional, moderate. high)

Lactobacillus spp. and Bifidobacterium spp. or Bifidobacterium lactis or Lactobacillus reuteri

**Comment:** Patients who place a high value on the potential harms (particularly those with severe illnesses) or a high value on avoiding the associated cost and a low value on the small risk of C. difficile development (particularly in the outpatient setting), would reasonably select no probiotics.

**Comment:** Patients for whom the feasibility and cost of using this combination of bacterial strain is problematic may reasonably select no probiotics.