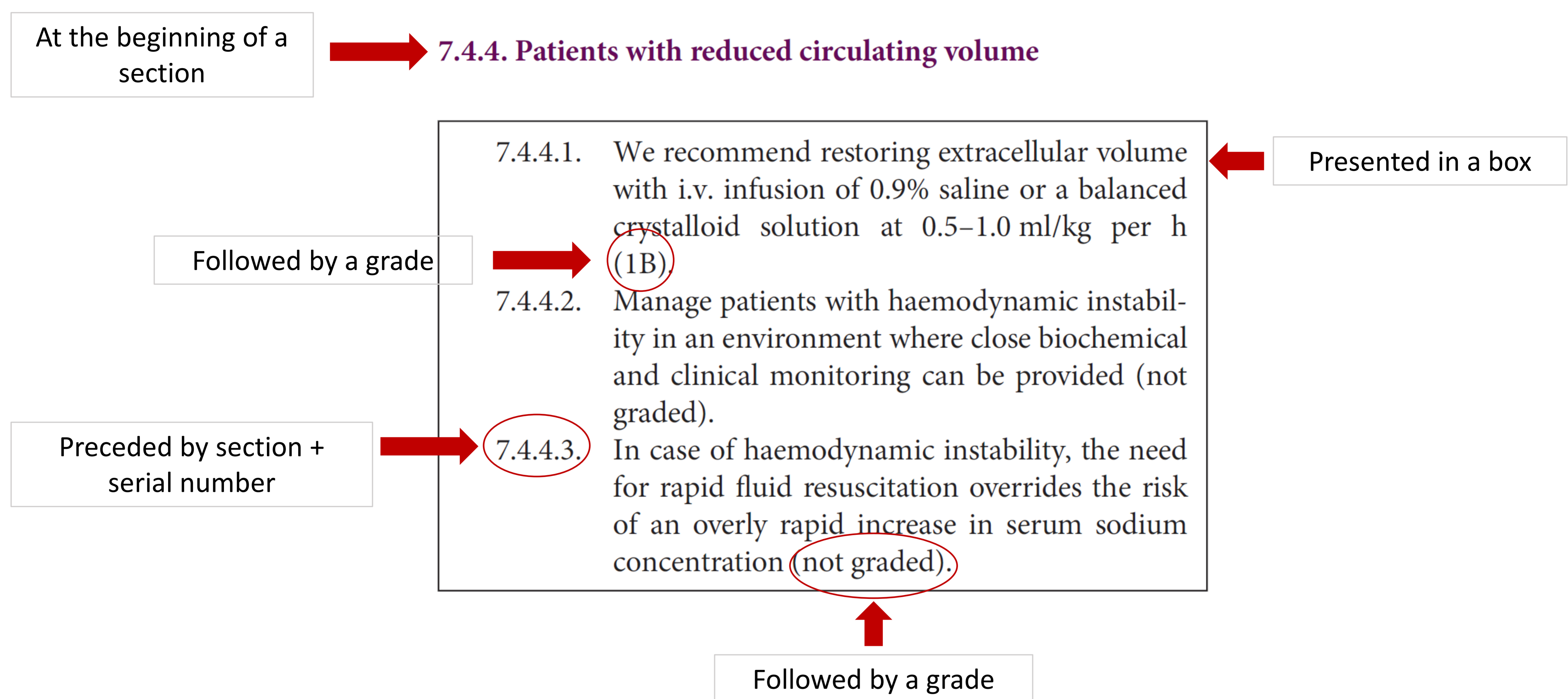


## HOW TO FIND AND INTERPRET RECOMMENDATIONS IN ERBP GUIDELINES

### FINDING RECOMMENDATIONS IN A GUIDELINE



## INTERPRETATION OF GUIDELINES GRADED RECOMMENDATIONS

6.2.1.1. We recommend excluding hyperglycaemic hyponatraemia by measuring the serum glucose concentration and correcting the measured serum sodium concentration for the serum glucose concentration if the latter is increased (1D)

#### The strength of graded recommendations

- The strength of graded recommendations is either strong ('1') or weak ('2').
- For strong recommendations ERBP uses 'We recommend', whereas all weak recommendations begin with 'We suggest'.
- Strong and weak recommendations have different implications for the stakeholders

Grade	Terminology	Implications		
		Patients	Clinicians	Policy
1	We recommend	Most people in your situation would want the recommended course of action, only a small proportion would not	Most patients should receive the recommended course of action	The recommendation can be adopted as policy in most situation
2	We suggest	Most people in your situation would want the recommended course of action, but many would not	You should recognise that different choices will be appropriate for different patients. You must help each patient to arrive at a management decision consistent with her or his values and preferences.	Policy making will require substantial debate and involvement of many stakeholders.

(Adapted from Guyatt et al. BMJ 2008)

#### The Quality of the evidence

- The letters A to D which form the second part of a recommendation's grade, reflect the quality of the underlying evidence
- The quality of the evidence does not affect a recommendation's terminology

Grade	Interpretation	Explanation
A	High	Further research is very unlikely to change our confidence in the estimate of effect
B	Moderate	Further research is likely to have an important impact on our confidence in the estimate of effect and may change the estimate
C	Low	Further research is very likely to have an important impact on our confidence in the estimate of effect and is likely to change the estimate
D	Very low	Any estimate of effect is very uncertain

## UNGRADED RECOMMENDATIONS

#### Ungraded recommendations

Simple declarative statements that should not be interpreted as stronger than graded recommendations. They typically refer to monitoring intervals, counselling, and referral to other specialists.

7.2.1.2. Stop, if possible, medications and other factors that can contribute to or provoke hyponatraemia (not graded)

