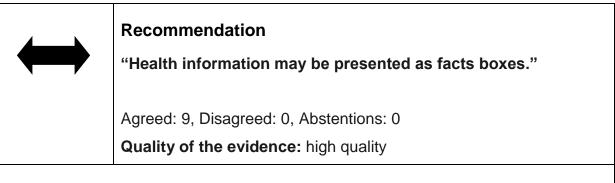


# 2. Facts boxes



### Comment on the recommendation:

The recommendation refers to the comparison of facts boxes and short summaries for medications (American advertisements).

For this comparison a positive effect on the cognitive outcomes *risk perception / knowledge* was shown in one study in favor of facts boxes. This effect was also found for *comprehensibility / readability*.

# Summary of the findings

#### Characteristics of the included studies

For this comparison two randomized-controlled studies (*symptom & prevention trial*, two studies in a journal (12)) were included with a total of 518 participants. These studies were conducted in the USA and were supplemented by a survey (7, 12). The intervention was a compact presentation (facts box) on therapeutic-medicinal measures (H2 blockers or proton pump inhibitors for acid indigestion) or preventive-medicinal measures (statins or Clopidogrel for secondary prevention of cardiovascular events) (12). The facts box supplied basic information about the medication and presented in a table the likelihood of a benefit or harm occurring through the drug, using numerical formats which laypersons can understand. The control intervention consisted of the short summaries of medications that the American *Food and Drug Administration* require as mandatory for advertisements addressed directly to patients and which do not stipulate any standardized information about benefits and harm.



#### Results for the relevant outcomes

Positive effects in favor of the facts box were shown for the outcomes *risk perception* / *knowledge* and *comprehensibility* / *readability* (7, 12).