Table 8:   Clinical evidence profile: Comparison 4.1. Telemedicine home monitoring programme + diary records versus usual care

Quality assessment							No of patients		Effect		Quality	Importance
No of studies	Design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Home monitoring program with diary and usual care	Usual care	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute		
Change in FEV 1 (% predicted) (follow-up 4 years; range of scores: 0-100; Better indicated by higher values)												
1 (Finkelstein 1992)	observational studies	serious[1]	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness	serious[2]	none	25	25	-	MD 8 lower (17.01 lower to 1.01 higher)[3]	VERY LOW	CRITICAL

Abbreviations: CI: confidence interval; CF: cystic fibrosis; FEV_1: forced expiratory volume in 1 second; MD: mean difference
1 The quality of the evidence was downgraded by 1 due lo unclear comparability between groups
2 The quality of the evidence was downgraded by 1 because the 95% CI crossed 1 clinical MID