

Supplementary Table 6. Methodological quality ratings of included studies using a modified Downs and Black checklist

Author (year)	Condition	Checklist items								Total	Assessment measure
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		
Armstrong MP (2003)	LBP	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	7	Audit of clinical notes
Artz N (2013)	TKR	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	6	Survey to department
Athanasopoulos S (2007)	Various musculoskeletal conditions (e.g. ligament sprain, osteoarthritis)	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	7	Treatment recording forms
Ayanniyi O (2007a)	Acute and chronic LBP	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	5	Survey with vignettes
Ayanniyi O (2007b)	Neck pain	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	7	Audit of clinical notes
Ayanniyi O (2016)	Shoulder pain	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	7	Audit of clinical notes
Ayanniyi O (2017)	Knee OA	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	6	Survey with vignettes
Barry S (2003)	TKR	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	6	Survey without vignettes
Barten DJ (2015)	Knee and hip OA	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	7	Treatment recording forms
Battie MC (1994)	Acute and chronic LBP	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	5	Survey with vignettes
Beales D (2015)	Pelvic girdle pain	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	5	Survey with vignettes
Bekkering GE (2005)	LBP	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	7	Survey without vignettes
Bernhardsson S (2015)	Subacute LBP, subacute neck pain and subacromial pain	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	6	Survey without vignettes
Bishop A (2008)	Acute LBP	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	6	Survey with vignettes

Bishop A (2016)	Pregnancy-related acute LBP	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	6	Survey with vignettes
Bruder AM (2013)	Distal radius fracture	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	6	Treatment recording forms
Byrne K (2006)	Acute and chronic LBP	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	6	Survey without vignettes
Carlesso LC (2013)	LBP and neck pain	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	6	Survey without vignettes
Carlesso LC (2015)	Acute and chronic neck pain and whiplash	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	6	Survey without vignettes
Carlesso LC (2014)	Acute and chronic neck pain and whiplash	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	6	Survey without vignettes
Casserley-Feeney SN (2008)	LBP	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	6	Audit of clinical notes
Corkery MB (2014)	Acute and chronic whiplash	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	6	Survey with vignettes
de Souza FS (2017)	Acute and subacute LBP	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	5	Survey with vignettes
Dekker J (1993)	LBP, neck pain, knee pain, shoulder pain	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	7	Treatment recording forms
Ehrmann-Feldman D (1996)	LBP	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	7	Audit of clinical notes
Evans DW (2010)	Acute LBP	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	7	Survey with vignettes
Fidvi N (2010)	LBP	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	6	Survey without vignettes
Foster NE (1999)	LBP	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	5	Survey without vignettes
Fraser JJ (2017)	Plantar fasciitis	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	7	Audit of billing codes

Frawley HC (2005)	Pelvic surgery	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	5	Survey without vignettes
Freburger JK (2011)	Chronic LBP	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	6	Survey without vignettes
Gracey JH (2002)	LBP	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	6	Treatment recording forms
Grant ME (2014)	Various musculoskeletal conditions	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	7	Treatment recording forms
Grieve R (2017)	Plantar fasciitis	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	5	Survey without vignettes
Groenendijk JJ (2007)	LBP	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	7	Treatment recording forms
Hamm L (2003)	Acute and chronic LBP	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	6	Treatment recording forms
Harte AA (2005)	LBP	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	6	Survey without vignettes
Hendrick P (2013)	LBP	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	6	Survey without vignettes
Holden MA (2008)	Knee OA	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	6	Survey with vignettes
Hurkmans EJ (2012)	Rheumatoid arthritis	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	5	Survey without vignettes
Jackson DA (2001)	LBP	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	7	Audit of clinical notes
Jamtvedt G (2008)	Knee OA	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	6	Survey without vignettes
Jette AM (1997)	LBP, neck pain and knee pain	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	6	Treatment recording forms
Jette AM (1994)	LBP	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	7	Treatment recording forms
Jette DU (1997)	LBP, neck pain and knee pain	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	7	Treatment recording forms

Johansson K (1999)	Subacromial pain	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	4	Survey with vignettes
Karel Y (2017)	Shoulder pain	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	6	Treatment recording forms
Keating JL (2016)	Acute and sub-acute LBP	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	6	Survey with vignettes
Kerssens JJ (1999)	LBP	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	7	Treatment recording forms
Kooijman MK (2011)	Lateral ankle sprains	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	7	Treatment recording forms
Ladeira CE (2015)	Acute and subacute LBP	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	5	Survey with vignettes
Ladeira CE (2017)	Acute and subacute LBP	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	7	Survey with vignettes
Leemrijse CJ (2006)	Lateral ankle sprains	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	6	Survey without vignettes
Li LC (2001)	Acute and sub-acute LBP	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	6	Survey with vignettes
Liddle SD (2009)	Chronic LBP	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	6	Survey without vignettes
Lineker SC (2006)	Rheumatoid arthritis	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	6	Treatment recording forms
Louw QA (2010)	LBP	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	7	Treatment recording forms
MacIntyre NJ (2013)	Knee OA	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	5	Survey without vignettes
Madson TJ (2015)	LBP	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	6	Survey with vignettes
Mielenz TJ (1997)	Acute LBP	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	7	Audit of clinical notes
Mikhail C (2005)	Acute LBP	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	7	Survey with vignettes
Moutzouri M (2017)	TKR	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	6	Survey without vignettes

Murray IR (2005)	Patella femoral pain and Achilles tendinopathy	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	6	Audit of clinical notes
Naylor J (2006)	TKR	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	5	Survey to department
Ng TS (2015)	Acute and chronic whiplash	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	5	Survey with vignettes
O'Brien VH (2014)	Thumb carpometacarpal joint pain	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	6	Survey without vignettes
Oppong-Yeboah B (2014)	LBP	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	5	Survey without vignettes
Owoeye OB (2009)	Various musculoskeletal conditions	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	7	Audit of clinical notes
Pensri P (2005)	LBP	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	6	Survey without vignettes
Peter WF (2014)	TKR and THR	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	6	Survey without vignettes
Peterson ML (2011)	Osteoporosis	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	6	Survey without vignettes
Peterson M (2005)	Chronic lateral epicondylitis	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	4	Survey without vignettes
Phadke V (2015)	Subacromial pain	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	5	Survey with vignettes
Pincus T (2011)	LBP	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	5	Survey without vignettes
Poitras S (2005)	LBP	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	7	Treatment recording forms
Rebbeck T (2006)	Acute whiplash	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8	Survey without vignettes and audit of clinical notes
Reid D (2002)	Acute LBP	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	4	Survey with vignettes

Roebroek ME (1998)	Lateral ankle sprains	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	7	Treatment recording forms
Rushton A (2014)	Lumbar fusion	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	5	Survey without vignettes
Serrano-Aguilar P (2011)	Chronic LBP, neck pain or shoulder pain	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8	Audit of billing codes
Sparkes V (2005)	LBP	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	6	Audit of clinical notes
Spitaels D (2017)	Knee OA	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	5	Survey without vignettes
Sran MM (2005)	Osteoporosis	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	5	Survey without vignettes
Stevenson K (2006)	LBP	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	6	Treatment recording forms
Strand LI (2005)	LBP	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	6	Clinical observation
Struyf F (2012)	Subacromial pain	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	6	Survey without vignettes
Swinkels IC (2005)	Acute and chronic LBP	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	7	Treatment recording forms
Tomkins CC (2010)	Lumbar spine stenosis	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	5	Survey without vignettes and telephone interview of Pts
Tumilty S (2017)	Acute LBP	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	6	Treatment recording forms
Turner PA (1999)	LBP and TKR	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	5	Audit of clinical notes
van Baar ME (1998)	LBP and knee pain	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	6	Treatment recording forms
van der Valk RWA (1995)	Acute, subacute and chronic LBP	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	6	Treatment recording forms
Walsh NE (2009)	Knee OA	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	5	Survey to department
Williamson E (2007)	Lumbar discectomy	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	4	Survey to department

Number of studies scoring positive (/94)	93	86	85	94	67	6	94	39
% of studies scoring positive	99%	91%	90%	100%	71%	6%	100%	41%
Mean (SD) total score = 6.0 (0.9)								
Median (IQR) total score = 6 (5-7)								

IQR: inter quartile range; LBP: low back pain; OA: osteoarthritis; PTs: physical therapists; Pts: patients; SD: standard deviation; THR: total hip replacement; TKR: total knee replacement.