

## Evaluation

Study design: Nonrandomized clinical trial

Questions for consideration:

- Study hypothesis is clearly stated, with explanation of why a randomized trial was considered unnecessary, impractical, or inappropriate for comparing treatments under study
- Clear exposition of how the study groups were initially identified, recruited, and selected, with diagram showing numbers screened, examined, and retained at each stage of the study
- Eligibility criteria for study entry include demographics of groups, how diagnosis was confirmed, distribution of known prognostic indicators of outcome
- Presentation in tabular form of baseline characteristics of participants, with group differences (and their confidence intervals) in a separate column
- Description of treatments administered to each group includes main interventions and co-interventions, doses and frequencies of all interventions explicitly stated
- Sources of data and methods of measurement of outcome are comparable between treatment groups; any differences with respect to outcome measurement are described in detail
- Analysis of outcome data controls confounders, examines interactions, explains how attrition was handled, and includes sensitivity analysis of missing data when applicable
- Discussion section includes potential biases and limitations; conclusions show appropriate caution in interpreting results
- Results applicable to Workers' Compensation population
- Sponsorship of study and competing interests of authors are stated

CONCLUSIONS: (adequate, inadequate, high-quality, not applicable)

Are the conclusions supported by the results, given the methods used and their limitations? What other hypotheses also fit the available data? Is it really the case that a randomized trial ought not be done?