|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **The Inclusion Criteria** | **Rationale for the Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria** |  **The Exclusion Criteria.** |
| 1. Published CPGs must be peer reviewed.
 | 1. Web based CPGs are harder to access after certain duration and can be unreliable.
 | 1. CPGs that are solely web based.
 |
| 1. The CPGs must identify the authors.
 | 1. The Authors name must be clearly indicated for each CPG.
 | 1. CPGs that are authored as a professional group/association.
 |
| 1. CPGs must include a reference list.
 | 1. CPGs must be based on scientific data and thus provide references.
 | 1. CPGs that exclude the reference list.
 |
| 1. The CPG must use a grading system to evaluate the level of evidence for each recommendation.
 | 1. The recommendations for the CPGs should be issued on the basis of the body of evidence relevant to the research question.
 | 1. CPGs that provide recommendations without a grading system.
 |
| 1. CPGs based on systematic reviews.
 | 1. Systematic reviews offered a less biased recommendation (avoiding potential publication biases).
 | 1. CPGs not clearly based on systematic reviews.
 |
| 1. The CPGs must be written in English.
 | 1. The CPGs must be written in English for the comprehension of the guidelines and AGREE II content.
 | 1. CPGs written in languages other than English were excluded.
 |
| 1. The CPGs must be current (2001-2012) and must mention a release date.
 | 1. Only recent CPG’s were included. The presence of release date was necessary to ensure currency.
 | 1. CPGs that were published before 2000.
 |
| 1. CPGs must involve participants’ ≥18 years of age.
 | 1. Paediatrics needs more specific recommendations.
 | 1. CPGs with participants <18 years of age.
 |
| 1. CPGs must involve comparative controlled studies which examined effectiveness of specific non-pharmacological interventions in rheumatology.
 | 1. Professional associations and organizations often publish “guidelines” pertaining to ethics or practice standards and not to physical rehabilitation interventions themselves. Only guidelines referring to physical interventions were selected.
 | 1. CPGs that looked only at pharmaceutical or surgical interventions.
 |
| 1. CPGs must be relevant to Osteoarthritis (OA) in the upper and lower extremities of the body.
 | 1. OA is one of the most prevalent diseases in Rheumatology. OA in the spine can involve for instance neurological condition, which requires different interventions.
 | 1. CPGs that looked at other rheumatologic conditions.
 |

**Appendix S3. The Eligibility Criteria**