

Appendix 2:

Quality assessment form adapted from the Ottawa-Newcastle scale (NOS) for assessing non-randomised studies

		Yes/No/Unclear
Selection of participants	<p>[1] Was the inclusion/exclusion clearly described? (for example, age, diagnosis status, MUS)</p> <p>[2] Was inclusion/exclusion assessed using valid and reliable measures? (for example, clinical interview to ascertain MUS or standardised questionnaires)</p> <p>[3] Was recruitment strategy clearly described?</p> <p>[4] Did the investigators ensure that the exposed/unexposed group were comparable (for example did they use stratification or matching)</p>	
Adequate description of study population	<p>[1] Was study population well characterised?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Age ➤ Sex ➤ Ethnicity ➤ Suitable definition of MUS 	
Validated method for ascertaining exposure	<p>[1] Was the method used to ascertain exposure clearly defined?</p> <p>[2] Was a valid and reliable measure used to ascertain exposure? (For example what measures were used to confirm MUS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Standardised questionnaires ➤ Clinical interview 	
Validated method to confirm outcome	<p>[1] Was a valid and reliable measures used to ascertain outcome? For example</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mean change in health expenditure ➤ Interviews ➤ Questionnaires 	
Adequate follow-up period	<p>[1] Was the follow-up long enough for the outcome to occur?</p> <p>[2] Was the follow-up period the same across all groups?</p>	
Adequate follow-up period	<p>[1] Was follow-up adequate enough for the outcome to occur?</p> <p>[2] Was follow-up period the same across groups?</p> <p>[3] Were differences in follow-up adjusted for using statistical techniques?</p>	
Completeness of follow-up (attrition)	<p>[1] Were drop-out rates and reasons for drop-out similar across exposed and unexposed?</p> <p>[2] Were numbers of dropouts/withdrawals documented at each time point?</p>	
Analysis and controls for confounders	<p>[1] Does the study identify and control for confounders or effect modifiers?</p>	
Sample size calculation	<p>[1] Is the sample size adequate</p> <p>[2] Did the study describe how the sample size was calculated?</p> <p>[3] Was the sample size large enough to detect differences in events between groups? Mean change</p>	
Analytical methods appropriate	<p>[1] What kind of analysis done appropriate for the kind of outcome data? For example,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Continuous – Mixed model, ANCOVA ➤ Categorical - Mixed model for categorical outcome ➤ Dichotomous – Logistic regression <p>[2] Was lost to follow-up accounted for in the analysis (e.g. through sensitivity analysis)</p>	