Appendix 3: AMSTAR ratings of systematic reviews

Study	Was an 'a priori' design provided?	Was there duplicate study selection and data extraction?	Was a comprehensive literature search performed?	Was the status of publication (i.e. grey literature) used as an inclusion criterion?	Was a list of studies (included and excluded) provided?	Were the characteristics of the included studies provided?	Was the scientific quality of the included studies assessed and documented?	Was the scientific quality of the included studies used appropriately in formulating conclusions?	Were the methods used to combine the findings of studies appropriate?	Was the likelihood of publication bias assessed?	Was the conflict of interest included?
Caplan 2012	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO excluded studies not listed	NO studies were grouped by medical, surgical, rehabilitation and psychiatric	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Chalmers 2011	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO excluded studies not listed	YES but no ages and no direct reporting of participants in either group	YES but not detailed and whilst Cochrane was cited only one RCT involved	YES	UNCLEAR difficult to judge whether combination of study types is commonly accepted	No	YES
Jeppensen 2012 (Cochrane)	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Qaddoura 2015	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO excluded studies not listed	YES	YES	NO relatively high risk of bias but all available data used	NO meta-analysis of two RCTs plus combination of different QoL measures from same study in meta-analysis	NO	YES
Shepperd 2016 (Cochrane)	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Varney 2014	YES	NO used single reviewer	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	NO	N/A no data were combined	NO	YES
Vinson 2012	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO