Appendix- II

| Reasons of exclusion | Number of full-texts |
|---|----------------------|
| Wrong population | 16 |
| Work absence due to acute pain or trauma | 11 |
| Non-observational studies (e.g., review/met-analysis, intervention study or clinical trial) | 4 |
| Work absence duration was not clear | 4 |
| Outcome not RTW | 3 |
| Confounding rehabilitation program | 2 |
| Instrumental validation | 2 |
| Not in English language | 2 |