

Supplementary Table 1. Practice and patient characteristics in the whole sample. Regular patients^a aged 18+ years. MedicineInsight data, 2018.

| Practice characteristics | %^b | 95% CI |
|---|----------------------|---------------|
| State | | |
| NSW | 35.5 | 30.1-41.2 |
| VIC | 21.7 | 17.1-27.2 |
| QLD | 14.4 | 10.9-18.8 |
| WA | 12.0 | 8.5-16.6 |
| TAS | 10.0 | 6.8-14.4 |
| SA | 2.6 | 1.4-5.0 |
| ACT | 2.8 | 1.3-6.1 |
| NT | 1.0 | 0.4-2.4 |
| Rurality | | |
| Major cities | 60.5 | 54.7-66.1 |
| Inner regional | 25.9 | 21.1-31.4 |
| Outer regional/Remote | 13.5 | 10.2-17.8 |
| IRSAD Quintile | | |
| Very high | 27.0 | 22.0-32.7 |
| High | 16.4 | 12.6-21.0 |
| Middle | 22.6 | 18.0-28.1 |
| Low | 18.8 | 11.3-18.9 |
| Very Low | 18.8 | 14.5-24.1 |
| Patient's characteristics | | |
| Gender | | |
| Male | 42.2 | 41.7-42.8 |
| Female | 57.7 | 57.1-58.2 |
| Age | | |
| 18-34 years | 23.0 | 22.1-23.9 |
| 35-49 years | 23.2 | 22.6-23.9 |
| 50-64 years | 25.1 | 24.7-25.5 |
| 65-79 years | 15.4 | 14.9-16.0 |
| 80+ years | 13.3 | 12.6-14.0 |
| Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander | | |
| No | 76.9 | 73.9-79.6 |
| Yes | 2.0 | 1.1-2.3 |
| Not recorded | 21.1 | 18.4-24.2 |
| IRSAD Quintile | | |
| Very high | 25.0 | 21.3-29.2 |
| High | 16.9 | 14.6-19.4 |
| Middle | 22.7 | 19.5-26.3 |
| Low | 16.5 | 13.9-19.5 |
| Very Low | 18.1 | 15.0-21.8 |
| Chronic musculoskeletal conditions^c | | |
| Chronic back pain | 16.6 | 15.9-17.2 |
| Osteoarthritis | 13.7 | 13.1-14.3 |
| Tenosynovitis | 6.7 | 6.4-7.1 |
| Osteoporosis | 4.2 | 4.0-4.4 |
| Gout | 4.0 | 3.8-4.1 |
| Rheumatoid arthritis | 0.89 | 0.85-0.94 |
| Fibromyalgia | 0.69 | 0.64-0.73 |

| | | |
|------------------------|------|-----------|
| Polymyalgia_rheumatica | 0.68 | 0.63-0.74 |
| Osteoarthritis | 0.38 | 0.34-0.43 |
| Spondyloarthritis | 0.28 | 0.26-0.31 |
| Fatigue syndrome | 0.22 | 0.20-0.24 |
| Paget disease | 0.11 | 0.01-0.12 |
| Myofascial pain | 0.03 | 0.02-0.05 |

^a At least three consultations in any two consecutive years

^b Values represent the distribution (prevalence) in the whole sample of regular patients aged 18+ years according to these characteristics

^c List of chronic musculoskeletal conditions diagnosed at any time between 2011 and 2018

IRSAD: Index of Relative Socioeconomic Advantage and Disadvantage.