Methodological Evaluation of Observational REsearch [tlgai (MORE)—Observational Studies of Population Incidence or Prevalence of Chronic Diseases

Suggested criteria for Level A exclusion from synthesis or Level C separate limited synthesis if major flaws detected

External Validity

Sampling of the subjects by the investigators

Nongeneral population based sampling frame

Not reported	Poor reporting	Level C
Medical records	Major flaw	Level A
Insurance claims	Major flaw	Level A
Work place	Major flaw	Level A
Health care based (clinics, hospitals)	Major flaw	Level A

Response rate in total sample (Cut off of acceptable response rate depend on the target population)

Not reported	Poor reporting Level C	
<40 (or less than cut off specific for the target population)%	Major flaw	Level A

Response rate in race or other subgroups (if applicable)

Not reported	Poor reporting	Level C
<40 (or less than cut off specific for the target population)%	Major flaw	Level A

Exclusion rate from the analysis

Not reported	Poor reporting	Level C
>10%	Major flaw	Level A

Exclusion rate in subgroups (if applicable):

Not reported	Poor reporting	Level C
>10%	Major flaw	Level A

Internal Validity

Source of measure incidence/prevalence of chronic diseases

Not reported	Poor reporting	Level C
Proxy reported (collected for the study)	Minor flaw	Level C
Obtained from medical records (mining of the data collected for health care purposes)	Minor flaw	Level C
Obtained from administrative database (mining of the data collected for health care purposes)	Minor flaw	Level C
Severity (degree of the symptoms of the chronic disease)		Level A
Severity can be relevant but not assessed in the study	Major flaw	

Validation of outcomes measurements

No information about validation	Poor reporting	Level C
The authors did not validate the methods to measure dependent variables (nonvalid methods were obtained)	Major flaw	Level A

Incidence or prevalence in total sample

Crude prevalence in total sample	Minor flaw	Level C

Prevalence in population subgroup if applicable

Stated as aim of the study but not reported	Poor reporting	Level C
Crude prevalence in race groups	Minor flaw	Level C
Crude prevalence in gender groups	Minor flaw	Level C
Crude prevalence other subgroups	Minor flaw	Level C