Potential study participants n=2027

Randomly assigned n= 791

Manual therapy n= 258

Manual therapy excluding spinal manipulation n=264

Manual therapy excluding stretching n= 269

 Dropout= 9
Reasons:  
- refusal = 5
- specified diagnosis=1
- unknown=3

 Dropout= 6
Reasons:  
- refusal = 5
- unknown=1

 Dropout= 9
Reasons:  
- refusal = 4
- specified diagnosis=1
- dissatisfied=1
- unknown=3

 Manual therapy n=249

 Manual therapy excluding spinal manipulation n=258

 Manual therapy excluding stretching n=260

Not included, n=1237

Reasons:
- No neck or back pain = 123
- Age < 18 or >65 years = 16
- Not Swedish speaking =28
- Too mild symptoms = 307
- Pregnancy = 15
- Recent manual treatment = 119
- Cancer = 16
- Pain duration < 1 week = 149
- Refusals = 278
- Objections against /require spinal manipulation =74
- Contraindication for spinal manipulation = 44
- No indication for spinal manipulation/mobilization = 10
- Red flags = 16
- Specified diagnosis = 30
- Unknown = 12

Randomly assigned n= 791