Reviewer’s report

**Title:** The prevalence and functional impact of musculoskeletal conditions amongst clients of a primary health care facility in an under-resourced area of Cape Town.

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 8 September 2009

**Reviewer:** Arvind Chopra

**Reviewer’s report:**

Population data on MSK is sparse from Africa and all such studies need to be encouraged. And the authors are on the right track. The sample size is rather small to capture a reasonable extent of the spectrum of MSK pain and disability in the community. And I do not mean to capture rare disorders like lupus. Also, the selection process of respondents in a clinic setting has several bias. The authors could have provided some more geographical and socioeconomical details. The recording of pain sites is not very clear in this paper. Does the use of conventional HAQ suit the traditions and customs of this community? Do people squat and sit cross legged on the floor? The authors have used a modified COPCORD approach and must describe the revisions. While COPCORD Stage I Phase II captures pain site data, we need Phase III to make some distinctions on clinical syndromes and classification.; Maybe the authors should consider enhancing their study with sufficient sample size. This paper is too preliminary to make assumptions and conclusions on the community.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I am the WHO ILAR COPCORD coordinator and the authors have used a modified version of COPCORD screening questionnaire.