Checklist for Reporting Results of Internet E-Surveys (CHERRIES)

Checklist Item	***Explanation***	***Page Number***
Describe survey design	Describe target population, sample frame. Is the sample a convenience sample? (In "open" surveys this is most likely.)	Convenience sample. p. 4: A cross-sectional online survey was conducted in Switzerland from December 1, 2023 to March 17, 2024. p. 6-7: Physiotherapists practising in-home physiotherapy in Switzerland were invited to participate in the online survey. Inclusion criteria were as follows: (1) actively practising in-home physiotherapy in Switzerland at the time of completing the survey, (2) conducting a minimum of three in-home therapies per week, (3) having at least one year of experience as an in-home physiotherapist, and (4) understanding and being able to express themselves in French, German, or Italian. Participants had to answer two screening questions before they could start the survey to ensure they were eligible. A convenience sampling method was used. To guarantee broad geographical representation and maximize participant reach, electronic recruitment methods were employed.
IRB approval	Mention whether the study has been approved by an IRB.	p. 26: The Ethics Committee of canton of Vaud (CER-VD) confirmed that, as no health-related data were requested, the study did not fall within the scope of the Swiss Federal Human Research Act (reference number: Req-2023-00677). The study was conducted in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki.
Informed consent	Describe the informed consent process. Where were the participants told the length of time of the survey, which data were stored and where and for how long, who the investigator was, and the purpose of the study?	p.26: Participants were informed of the nature of the study and of their anonymous and voluntary participation before completing the questionnaire in the introductory message containing the link to the survey. As no health-related nor sensitive data were requested, their decision to complete the questionnaire was therefore considered as implicit informed consent. Participants could stop the survey at any time. No identifying information was collected during data collection and the data was analysed anonymously.

		p. 7: The message set out the objectives of the study, the survey duration, the available languages, and provided information on the guaranteed anonymity of respondents as well as on the investigators.
Data protection	If any personal information was collected or stored, describe what mechanisms were used to protect unauthorized access.	p. 7: Data were collected anonymously online using the REDCap software hosted at the University of Applied Sciences and Arts Western Switzerland [36, 37].
Development and testing	State how the survey was developed, including whether the usability and technical functionality of the electronic questionnaire had been tested before fielding the questionnaire.	p. 4-6: section 2.2 Questionnaire development
Open survey versus closed survey	An "open survey" is a survey open for each visitor of a site, while a closed survey is only open to a sample which the investigator knows (password-protected survey).	p. 7: The 16 cantonal and regional associations of Physioswiss and the ASPI-SVFP disseminated the open survey link with an introductory message to all their members via email or included it in their newsletters.
Contact mode	Indicate whether or not the initial contact with the potential participants was made on the Internet. (Investigators may also send out questionnaires by mail and allow for Web-based data entry.)	p.7: The 16 cantonal and regional associations of Physioswiss and the ASPI-SVFP disseminated the open survey link with an introductory message to all their members via email or included it in their newsletters.
Advertising the survey	How/where was the survey announced or advertised? Some examples are offline media (newspapers), or online (mailing lists – If yes, which ones?) or banner ads (Where were these banner ads posted and what did they look like?). It is important to know the wording of the announcement as it will heavily influence who chooses to participate. Ideally the survey announcement should be published as an appendix.	p.7: The 16 cantonal and regional associations of Physioswiss and the ASPI-SVFP disseminated the open survey link with an introductory message to all their members via email or included it in their newsletters. Only physiotherapists practising in-home physiotherapy were asked to participate to the survey. To ensure this, they had to answer two screening questions related to the inclusion criteria before being able to start the questionnaire. The message set out the objectives of the study, the survey duration, the available languages, and provided information on the guaranteed anonymity of respondents as well as on the investigators. A reminder was sent to the associations two months later.
Web/E-mail	State the type of e-survey (eg, one posted on a Web site, or one sent out through e-mail). If it is an e-mail survey, were the responses entered manually into a database, or was there an automatic method for capturing responses?	p.7: The 16 cantonal and regional associations of Physioswiss and the ASPI-SVFP disseminated the open survey link with an introductory message to all their members via email or included it in their newsletters. p.7 : Data were collected anonymously online using the REDCap software.

Context	Describe the Web site (for mailing list/newsgroup) in which the survey was posted. What is the Web site about, who is visiting it, what are visitors normally looking for? Discuss to what degree the content of the Web site could pre-select the sample or influence the results. For example, a survey about vaccination on a anti-immunization Web site will have different results from a Web survey conducted on a government Web site	p.8: Data were collected anonymously online using the REDCap software hosted at the University of Applied Sciences and Arts Western Switzerland [36, 37].
Mandatory/voluntary	Was it a mandatory survey to be filled in by every visitor who wanted to enter the Web site, or was it a voluntary survey?	p.7: The survey was voluntary and self-administered.
Incentives	Were any incentives offered (eg, monetary, prizes, or non-monetary incentives such as an offer to provide the survey results)?	p.7: No incentives were offered to participate in the survey.
Time/Date	In what timeframe were the data collected?	p.4: A cross-sectional online survey was conducted in Switzerland from December 1, 2023 to March 17, 2024.
Randomization of items or questionnaires	To prevent biases items can be randomized or alternated.	p.6: Items were not randomized or alternated.
Adaptive questioning	Use adaptive questioning (certain items, or only conditionally displayed based on responses to other items) to reduce number and complexity of the questions.	p.6: Branching logic was implemented to display certain questions depending on participants' responses to previous items.
Number of Items	What was the number of questionnaire items per page? The number of items is an important factor for the completion rate.	p.6: The survey consisted of 11 pages, with approximately ten items pro page.
Number of screens (pages)	Over how many pages was the questionnaire distributed? The number of items is an important factor for the completion rate.	p.6: The survey consisted of 11 pages, with approximately ten items pro page.
Completeness check	It is technically possible to do consistency or completeness checks before the questionnaire is submitted. Was this done, and if “yes”, how (usually	It was not done.

	JAVAScript)? An alternative is to check for completeness after the questionnaire has been submitted (and highlight mandatory items). If this has been done, it should be reported. All items should provide a non-response option such as “not applicable” or “rather not say”, and selection of one response option should be enforced.	
Review step	State whether respondents were able to review and change their answers (eg, through a Back button or a Review step which displays a summary of the responses and asks the respondents if they are correct).	p.6: Participants had the option of returning to the previous page to change their answers, as well as stopping the survey and resuming it later.
Unique site visitor	If you provide view rates or participation rates, you need to define how you determined a unique visitor. There are different techniques available, based on IP addresses or cookies or both.	N/A
View rate (Ratio of unique survey visitors/unique site visitors)	Requires counting unique visitors to the first page of the survey, divided by the number of unique site visitors (not page views!). It is not unusual to have view rates of less than 0.1 % if the survey is voluntary.	Could not be calculated.
Participation rate (Ratio of unique visitors who agreed to participate/unique first survey page visitors)	Count the unique number of people who filled in the first survey page (or agreed to participate, for example by checking a checkbox), divided by visitors who visit the first page of the survey (or the informed consents page, if present). This can also be called “recruitment” rate.	Could not be calculated.
Completion rate (Ratio of users who finished the survey/users who agreed to participate)	The number of people submitting the last questionnaire page, divided by the number of people who agreed to participate (or submitted the first survey page). This is only relevant if there is a separate “informed consent” page or if the survey goes over several pages. This is a measure for	p. 8: The completion rate for this survey was 79.0%.

	attrition. Note that “completion” can involve leaving questionnaire items blank. This is not a measure for how completely questionnaires were filled in. (If you need a measure for this, use the word “completeness rate”.)	
Cookies used	Indicate whether cookies were used to assign a unique user identifier to each client computer. If so, mention the page on which the cookie was set and read, and how long the cookie was valid. Were duplicate entries avoided by preventing users access to the survey twice; or were duplicate database entries having the same user ID eliminated before analysis? In the latter case, which entries were kept for analysis (eg, the first entry or the most recent)?	Cookies were not used.
IP check	Indicate whether the IP address of the client computer was used to identify potential duplicate entries from the same user. If so, mention the period of time for which no two entries from the same IP address were allowed (eg, 24 hours). Were duplicate entries avoided by preventing users with the same IP address access to the survey twice; or were duplicate database entries having the same IP address within a given period of time eliminated before analysis? If the latter, which entries were kept for analysis (eg, the first entry or the most recent)?	Participants’ IP address were not checked.
Log file analysis	Indicate whether other techniques to analyze the log file for identification of multiple entries were used. If so, please describe.	N/A
Registration	In “closed” (non-open) surveys, users need to login first and it is easier to prevent duplicate entries from the same user. Describe how this was done. For example, was the survey never displayed a second	N/A

	time once the user had filled it in, or was the username stored together with the survey results and later eliminated? If the latter, which entries were kept for analysis (eg, the first entry or the most recent)?	
Handling of incomplete questionnaires	Were only completed questionnaires analyzed? Were questionnaires which terminated early (where, for example, users did not go through all questionnaire pages) also analyzed?	p.7: Both fully completed and partially completed datasets were analysed. p.9: Figure 1. Survey flow chart.
Questionnaires submitted with an atypical timestamp	Some investigators may measure the time people needed to fill in a questionnaire and exclude questionnaires that were submitted too soon. Specify the timeframe that was used as a cut-off point, and describe how this point was determined.	We did not measure the time.
Statistical correction	Indicate whether any methods such as weighting of items or propensity scores have been used to adjust for the non-representative sample; if so, please describe the methods.	No statistical correction method was used.