**Table A: Taxonomy for identifying study design classifications**

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| **#** | **Question** | **If answer is yes:** | **If answer is no:** |
| 1 | Was there a comparison to assess the effect/association of an intervention/exposure and an outcome? (This could be between ≥2 groups or within the same individual or group(s) comparing pre- and post intervention measures) | Skip to #2 | Non-comparative study (e.g. case report or case series |
| 2 | Was information on the intervention/exposure and outcome gathered by the investigators concurrently (e.g. by survey)? | Cross-sectional study | Skip to #3 |
| 3 | Were participants (or clusters) allocated to ≥2 study groups by actions of the researchers (i.e., decisions or systems applied by the researchers, such as randomization or quasi-randomized methods)? | Skip to #4 | Skip to #5 |
| 4 | Were interventions/exposures assigned randomly? | Randomized controlled trial | Non-randomized controlled trial (E.g. quasi-randomized controlled trial) |
| 5 | Did all the participants receive the same intervention/exposure? | Skip to #9 | Skip to #6 |
| 6 | Was there within group comparisons of participants over time (i.e., before/after or pre/post measurements)? | Skip to #10 | Skip to #7 |
| 7 | Were groups defined by the intervention/exposure? | Skip to #11 | Skip to #8 |
| 8 | Were intervention/exposure data registered prior to the outcome (e.g. from an existing longitudinal study)? | Nested case control study | Case control study |
| 9 | Were there ≥3 measurements before & ≥3 measurements after the intervention/exposure? | Interrupted time series (without comparison group | Before-after study |
| 10 | Were there ≥3 measurements before & ≥3 measurements after the intervention/exposure? | Interrupted time series (with comparison group) | Controlled before-after study |
| 11 | Were groups concurrent? | Skip to #12 | Non-concurrent cohort study |
| 12 | Were both intervention/exposure and outcome assessed prospectively? | Prospective cohort study | Retrospective cohort study |