STROBE Statement—Checklist of items that should be included in reports of cohort studies

	Item No	Recommendation	Page No.	Location in manuscript
Title and abstract	1	(*a*) Indicate the study's design with a commonly used term in the title or the abstract	1	Title page
		(*b*) Provide in the abstract an informative and balanced summary of what was done and what was found	2	Section: Abstract
Introduction				
Background/rationale	2	Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being reported	3	Section: Introduction
Objectives	3	State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypotheses	3	Section: Introduction
Methods				
Study design	4	Present key elements of study design early in the paper	4	Section: Study design
Setting	5	Describe the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collection	4-5	Sections: Study population, Return to work
Participants	6	(*a*) Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of selection of participants. Describe methods of follow-up	4	Section: Study population
		(*b*) For matched studies, give matching criteria and number of exposed and unexposed	Not applicable	
Variables	7	Clearly define all outcomes, exposures, predictors, potential confounders, and effect modifiers. Give diagnostic criteria, if applicable	5-7	Sections: Body Mass index, Return to work, Covariates
Data sources/ measurement	8*	For each variable of interest, give sources of data and details of methods of assessment (measurement). Describe comparability of assessment methods if there is more than one group	5-7	Sections: Body Mass index, Return to work, Covariates
Bias	9	Describe any efforts to address potential sources of bias	5-7, 12-13	Sections: Body Mass index, Return to work, Covariates, Strengths and limitations

Study size	10	Explain how the study size was arrived at	9,22	Section: Study population and characteristics. Section: Tables and figures, Figure 1
Quantitative variables	11	Explain how quantitative variables were handled in the analyses. If applicable, describe which groupings were chosen and why	7-8	Section: Statistics
Statistical methods	12	(*a*) Describe all statistical methods, including those used to control for confounding	7-8	Section: Statistics
		(*b*) Describe any methods used to examine subgroups and interactions	7-8	Section: Statistics
		(*c*) Explain how missing data were addressed	7	Section: Statistics
		(*d*) If applicable, explain how loss to follow-up was addressed	Not applicable	
		(*e*) Describe any sensitivity analyses	8	Section: Statistics
Results				
Participants	13*	(a) Report numbers of individuals at each stage of study—eg numbers potentially eligible, examined for eligibility, confirmed eligible, included in the study, completing follow-up, and analysed	8-9	Section: Study population and characteristics
		(b) Give reasons for non-participation at each stage	Not applicable	
		(c) Consider use of a flow diagram	22	Section: Figures and tables, Figure 1
Descriptive data	14*	(a) Give characteristics of study participants (eg demographic, clinical, social) and information on exposures and potential confounders	8	Sections: Body Mass Index, Covariates, Study population and characteristics
		(b) Indicate number of participants with missing data for each variable of interest	17-19, 22, 26-27	Section: Figures and tables. Figure 1, Table 1, Table S2
		(c) Summarise follow-up time (eg, average and total amount)	5	Section: Return to work
Outcome data	15*	Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures over time	20	Section: Figures and tables, Table 3
Main results	16	(*a*) Give unadjusted estimates and, if applicable, confounder-adjusted estimates and their precision (eg, 95% confidence interval). Make clear which confounders were adjusted for and why they were included	21	Section: Figures and tables, Table 4

		(*b*) Report category boundaries when continuous variables were categorized	17	Section: Figures and tables, Table 1
		(*c*) If relevant, consider translating estimates of relative risk into absolute risk for a meaningful time period	Not applicable	
Other analyses	17	Report other analyses done—eg analyses of subgroups and interactions, and sensitivity analyses	9-10, 21	Section: Results, Return to work Section: Figures and tables, Table 4 (stratified analysis)
Discussion				
Key results	18	Summarise key results with reference to study objectives	10	Section: Discussion
Limitations	19	Discuss limitations of the study, taking into account sources of potential bias or imprecision. Discuss both direction and magnitude of any potential bias	12-13	Section: Discussion, Strengths and limitations
Interpretation	20	Give a cautious overall interpretation of results considering objectives, limitations, multiplicity of analyses, results from similar studies, and other relevant evidence	10-12	Section: Discussion
Generalisability	21	Discuss the generalisability (external validity) of the study results	12-13	Section: Discussion, Strengths and limitations
Other information				
Funding	22	Give the source of funding and the role of the funders for the present study and, if applicable, for the original study on which the present article is based	Not applicable	

*Give information separately for exposed and unexposed groups.

STROBE checklist reference: Elm E von, Altman DG, Egger M, Pocock SJ, Gøtzsche PC, Vandenbroucke JP. The Strengthening the Reporting of Observational Studies in Epidemiology (STROBE) statement: guidelines for reporting observational studies. The Lancet. 2007 Oct 20;370(9596):1453–7.