A systematic review of job loss prevention interventions for persons with inflammatory arthritis

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BACKGROUND
Persons with inflammatory arthritis (IA) have a higher level of absenteeism from work than those without IA and up to 20-30% become permanently work-disabled during the first years after being diagnosed with IA. It is therefore relevant to offer effective interventions designed to prevent job loss and improve work function (i.e. job loss prevention interventions) to support people with IA to stay connected to the labour market.

OBJECTIVE
To present an overview of the evidence of the effect of job loss prevention interventions, which can improve work participation and decrease absenteeism and job loss in persons with IA.

METHOD
A systematic literature search was performed in the databases PubMed, EMBASE, CINAHL, PsycINFO, and the Cochrane Library. The search aimed to update a previous Cochrane review (1) and was followed by an additional search on new search terms.

RESULTS
Six studies were included. Most of the studies were of low quality. Therefore, the results should be interpreted with caution.

CONCLUSION
Job loss prevention interventions may have an effect on work ability, absenteeism and in particular job loss among persons with IA. Further studies of high quality regarding job loss prevention interventions for people with IA are recommended.

REFERENCE