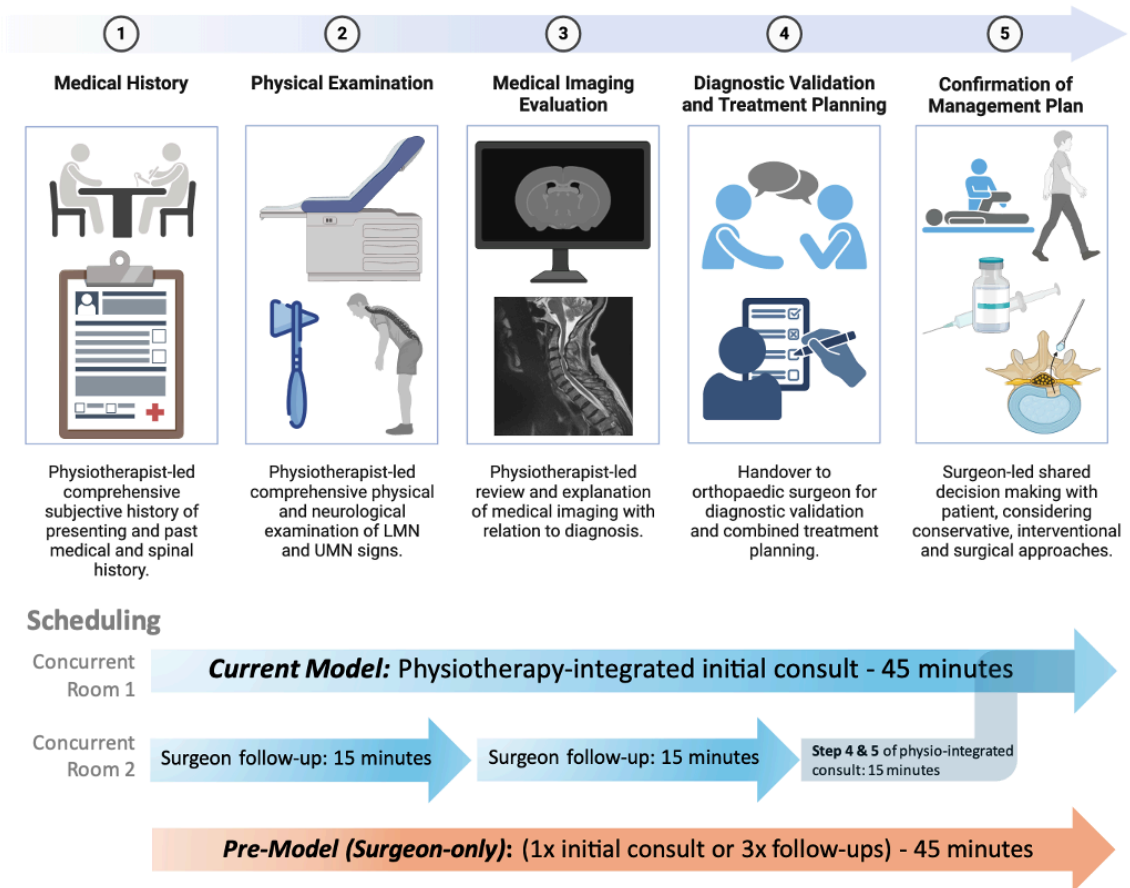


Table 1: Key terminology and definitions.

Term	Definition
Physiotherapist-integrated orthopaedic consultation model	A collaborative care model where a physiotherapist and orthopaedic surgeon jointly assess patients. This involves a physiotherapist-led assessment consisting of a comprehensive patient history, examination and review of available imaging, prior to handover and orthopaedic review. The consultation components are summarised in Figure 1.
Orthopaedic physiotherapy practitioner (OPP)	A physiotherapist working in an orthopaedic care setting performing assessment and diagnostic insight. The scope is typically context-specific, but may include referral for high-tech medical imaging, investigations or further medical specialist evaluation.
Secondary care	Health services provided by medical specialists (including orthopaedic surgeons) in the private sector upon referral from primary care.

Figure 1: Components of the physiotherapist-integrated consultation.



Note: The scheduling component of this figure demonstrates the ability for the orthopaedic surgeon to conduct concurrent follow-up consultations while the physiotherapist conducts the physiotherapist-led components of the physio-integrated consultation (blue arrows). The transposing arrows (blue versus orange) demonstrate one way in which the current model increases capacity and service efficiency; i.e., the current model allows for an initial consult and two follow-ups to be seen during the same 45 minutes, compared with a single initial or three follow-ups in the pre-model period. LMN = lower motor neuron; UMN = upper motor neuron.

Table 2: Participant characteristics and referral information.

Category	Subcategory	N (%)
Mean age		46.8 years (SD 15)
Gender	Male	125 (53.6%)
Ethnicity	New Zealand/Other European	72 (30.9%)
	Asian	59 (25.3%)
	Māori	19 (8.2%)
	Pacific peoples	14 (6.0%)
	Other ethnicities	12 (5.2%)
	Unspecified	57 (24.5%)
Primary complaint	Lower back pain with associated lower limb symptoms	145 (62.2%)
	Isolated lower limb symptoms	26 (11.2%)
	Neck pain with associated upper limb symptoms	24 (10.3%)
	Isolated lower back pain	21 (9.0%)
	Isolated upper limb symptoms	8 (3.4%)
	Isolated neck pain	6 (2.6%)
	Other	3 (1.3%)
Referral source	General practitioner	208 (89.3%)
	Physiotherapist	22 (9.4%)
	Other (chiropractor, osteopath, medical specialist)	3 (1.2%)

SD = standard deviation.

Figure 2: Non-surgical management pathways following consultation.

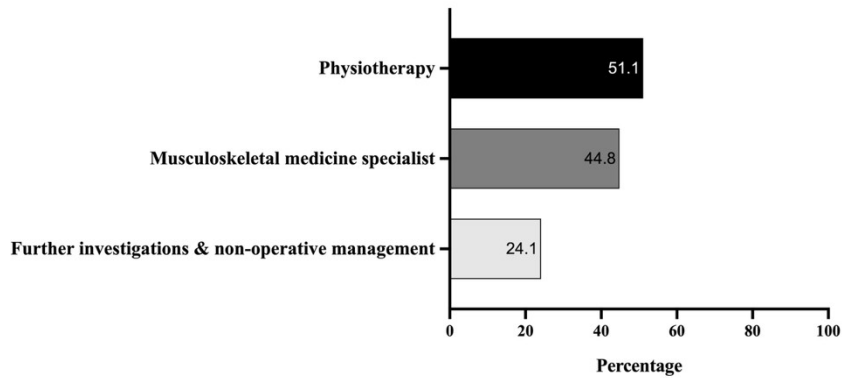
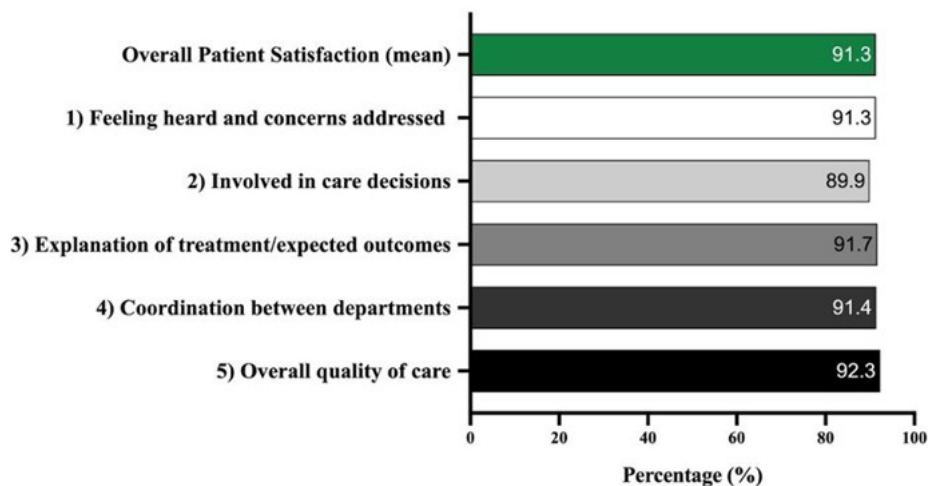


Table 3: Diagnostic concordance between physiotherapist and orthopaedic spine surgeon.

Variable	Agreement (%)	Cohen's kappa
Nerve root selection	74.3	0.7
Compression degree	80	0.7
Zone of compression	77.1	0.6

Figure 3: Patient satisfaction scores by domain.



Note: Overall patient satisfaction (green bar) represents the average satisfaction across all domains. Corresponding mean percentages are reported within the bars. Questionnaire items: 1) Did you feel that the healthcare provider listened to and addressed your concerns during the appointment? 2) Did you feel involved in decisions about your care? 3) How well did the healthcare provider explain your treatment plan and expected outcomes? 4) How would you rate the coordination between different departments? (e.g., referrer, admin, radiology and/or other specialists.) 5) How satisfied were you with the overall quality of care you received during your visit?