

Table S1

Items included in the Template for Intervention Description and Replication (TIDieR) checklist: information to include when describing an intervention. Full version of checklist provides space for authors and reviewers to give location of the information (see appendix 3)

Item No	Item	
Brief name		
1	Provide the name or a phrase that describes the intervention	Physiotherapy deep-tissue massage, TENS, electroacupuncture, a vibrating handheld massage tool and a heat lamp
Why		
2	Describe any rationale, theory, or goal of the elements essential to the intervention	This is the gold standard treatment in Vietnam for low back pain including chronic low back pain. The intervention follows the clinical practice guidelines from the American College of Physicians for noninvasive treatments for acute, subacute, and chronic low back pain which include acupuncture for chronic low back pain and superficial heat and massage for subacute low back pain.
What		
3	Materials: Describe any physical or informational materials used in the intervention, including those provided to participants or used in intervention delivery or in training of intervention providers. Provide information on where the materials can be accessed (such as online appendix, URL)	A vibrating handheld massage tool and a heat lamp.
4	Procedures: Describe each of the procedures, activities, and/or processes used in the intervention, including any enabling or support activities	1. Massage for 15 minutes. 2. TENS machine for 15 minutes. 3. Electroacupuncture with heat lamp 20 minutes

Item No	Item	
Who provided		
5	For each category of intervention provider (such as psychologist, nursing assistant), describe their expertise, background, and any specific training given	The therapists are experienced physiotherapeutic nurses and are employed by the hospital for the purpose of providing physiotherapy to its patients.
How		
6	Describe the modes of delivery (such as face to face or by some other mechanism, such as internet or telephone) of the intervention and whether it was provided individually or in a group	Delivery is on a massage table
Where		
7	Describe the type(s) of location(s) where the intervention occurred, including any necessary infrastructure or relevant features	Delivery is at the hospital in the physiotherapy department.
When and How Much		
8	Describe the number of times the intervention was delivered and over what period of time including the number of sessions, their schedule, and their duration, intensity, or dose	Four treatments once per week for 50 minutes.
Tailoring		
9	If the intervention was planned to be personalised, titrated or adapted, then describe what, why, when, and how	Intensity of the TENS and electroacupuncture treatment are to the patient's capability. Heat lamp as close to the lower back as the patient can tolerate.
Modifications		

Item No	Item	
10*	If the intervention was modified during the course of the study, describe the changes (what, why, when, and how)	N/A
How well		
11	Planned: If intervention adherence or fidelity was assessed, describe how and by whom, and if any strategies were used to maintain or improve fidelity, describe them	Only experienced practitioners will be used who are not expected to vary their standard of treatment. The treatment is in a space with other treatments nearby therefore any deviation will be visible to multiple people.
12*	Actual: If intervention adherence or fidelity was assessed, describe the extent to which the intervention was delivered as planned	N/A

*If checklist is completed for a protocol, these items are not relevant to protocol and cannot be described until study is complete.