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Figure 2. Categories and quality assessment rubric

Category	Description
Reference to precision	In-house precision study conducted Reference only to published precision study elsewhere No reference to machine precision
Precision protocol	(a) 30 subjects scanned twice or (b) 15 subjects scanned three times Less than the International Society for Clinical Densitometry recommended sample size for precision studies (above) No precision study conducted/referenced
Precision sample selection	Precision sample specific to the study group Precision sample not specific to the study group No precision study conducted/referenced
Precision error	CV% and/or RMS-SD provided Alternative test-retest assessment No precision values provided
Assessment of significant change	LSC or alternative provided No LSC provided but can be calculated from precision error No LSC/alternative and not possible to calculate <i>or</i> no precision study conducted/referenced.
Interpretation of change	Change in DXA outcomes interpreted using LSC/alternative at the individual level Group means evaluated statistically and reference to precision error in Results and/or Discussion

Group means only evaluated statistically without consideration of precision error.

Subject preparation	Detailed standardised subject preparation protocol (e.g. standardised for more than one biological factor, such as fully hydrated and no exercise 12 - 24 h prior to scanning)
	Partly standardised preparation protocol (e.g. standardised for one biological factor)
	No standardised subject preparation protocol and no reference to a standardised protocol.
