Musculoskeletal complaints are one of the most common reasons patients seek care from their primary care physicians. Of these presenting complaints, it is estimated that 90% of the nonsurgical orthopedic conditions can be managed in the primary care setting. In this issue of the *Medical Clinics of North America*, Dr. Matthew Silvis and his colleagues address many of these common musculoskeletal conditions that make up the 10% to 15% of all visits to primary care offices. Reviews have previously noted the inadequate examinations and inappropriate ordering of tests and procedures that often occur when a comprehensive understanding of a focused history, musculoskeletal examination, and diagnostic approach is not undertaken. As we continue to emphasize the need for exercise and physical activity in our patients with the reality that we are asking this of a population that continues to advance in age, the skills of the primary care physician to appropriately diagnose and efficiently treat these conditions will be essential. The ultimate goal for our patients will be the return to functional status and management of symptoms that will allow them to re-engage in the activities that will promote their overall wellness.

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