



**ICHOM**

International Consortium for  
Health Outcomes Measurement

**LOW  
BACK PAIN  
DATA COLLECTION  
REFERENCE GUIDE**

Version 2.0  
Revised: April 14th, 2015



Low Back Pain

Measuring  
results  
that matter

Degree of  
disability



We are thrilled that you are interested in measuring outcomes for your low back pain patients according to ICHOM standards. It is our hope that this Reference Guide will facilitate the process of implementing our Standard Set and ensure collection of comparable data for global benchmarking and learning.

# Introducing ICHOM and the Reference Guide

ICHOM brings together patient representatives, clinician leaders, and registry leaders from all over the world to develop Standard Sets, comprehensive yet parsimonious sets of outcomes and case-mix variables we recommend all providers track.

Each Standard Set focuses on patient-centered results, and provides an internationally-agreed upon method for measuring each of these outcomes. We do this because we believe that standardized outcomes measurement will open up new possibilities to compare performance globally, allow clinicians to learn from each other, and rapidly improve the care we provide our patients.

Our Standard Sets include initial conditions and risk factors to enable meaningful case-mix adjustment globally, ensuring that comparisons of outcomes will take into account the differences in patient populations across not just providers, but also countries and regions. We also include high-level treatment variables to allow stratification of outcomes by major treatment types. A comprehensive data dictionary is included in the appendix.

## Working Group Members for Low Back Pain

The following individuals dedicated both time and expertise to develop the ICHOM Standard Set for Low Back Pain in partnership with ICHOM, under the leadership of Dr. Peter Fritzell, Registry Manager of SweSpine in Sweeden.

### **Australia**

Beth Morrison  
Michelle Davies  
Richard Kahler

### **Denmark**

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### **Netherlands**

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### **Norway**

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### **United Kingdom**

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### **United States**

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Thomas Cha  
Ajay Wasan  
Kevin Foley  
Neal Shonnard  
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Carter Clement

# Conditions and Treatment Approaches Covered for Low Back Pain

For Low Back Pain, the following conditions and treatment approaches (or interventions) are covered by our Standard Set.

<b>Conditions</b>	Lumbar Disc Herniation   Lumbar Stenosis   Lumbar Spondylolisthesis   Degenerative Scoliosis   Adult Idiopathic Scoliosis   Degenerative Disc Disorder   Other Degenerative Lumbar Disorders   Mechanical, Acute, and Chronic Lumbar Back Pain and Back-Related Leg Pain
<b>Conditions Not Covered</b>	Individuals < 18 Years of Age   Spinal Infection   Spinal Tumor   Spinal Fractures   Traumatic Dislocation   Congenital Scoliosis Documented as >20 Degrees, Moderate, Large, or Severe
<b>Treatment Approaches</b>	Conservative Therapy (e.g. physical therapy, chiropractic, drug therapy, injections, etc.)   Surgical Therapy (e.g. spinal fusion, decompression, or discectomy)

# ICHOM Standard Set for Low Back Pain

## Case-Mix Variables

Patient Population	Measure	Supporting Information	Timing	Data Source
<b>Demographic Factors</b>				
All patients	Age	Date of birth	Baseline	Patient-reported
	Sex	Sex at birth		
	Educational level	Level of schooling completed		
<b>Baseline Functional Status</b>				
All patients	Work status	N/A	Baseline	Patient-reported
	Duration of sick leave	N/A		
	Baseline patient-reported disability	Tracked via ODI		
	Baseline patient-reported back and leg pain	Tracked via NPRS		
	Baseline patient-reported health-related quality of life	Tracked via the EQ-5D-3L		
<b>Baseline Clinical Factors</b>				
All patients	Smoking status	N/A	Baseline	Patient-reported
	Comorbidities	Modified Self-administered Comorbidity Questionnaire (SCQ)		
	Duration of back/leg pain	N/A		
	Body mass index	Height and weight		
	Diagnostic classification	Glassman classification		
Surgically treated patients	Morbidity state	ASA		Clinical
	Indication for surgery	Swespine classification		
<b>Prior Treatment</b>				
All patients	Need for continuous analgesic use	Use of narcotics or non-narcotics	Baseline	Patient-reported
	Prior interventions	Date and type of intervention		Clinical

## Treatment Variables

Patient Population	Measure	Supporting Information	Timing	Data Source
Surgical and injection therapy patients	Type of procedural intervention	Discectomy, laminectomy, fusion, other, and injection therapy	During index visit or hospitalization for procedure	Clinical
	Level of procedural intervention	T12-S1 covered		

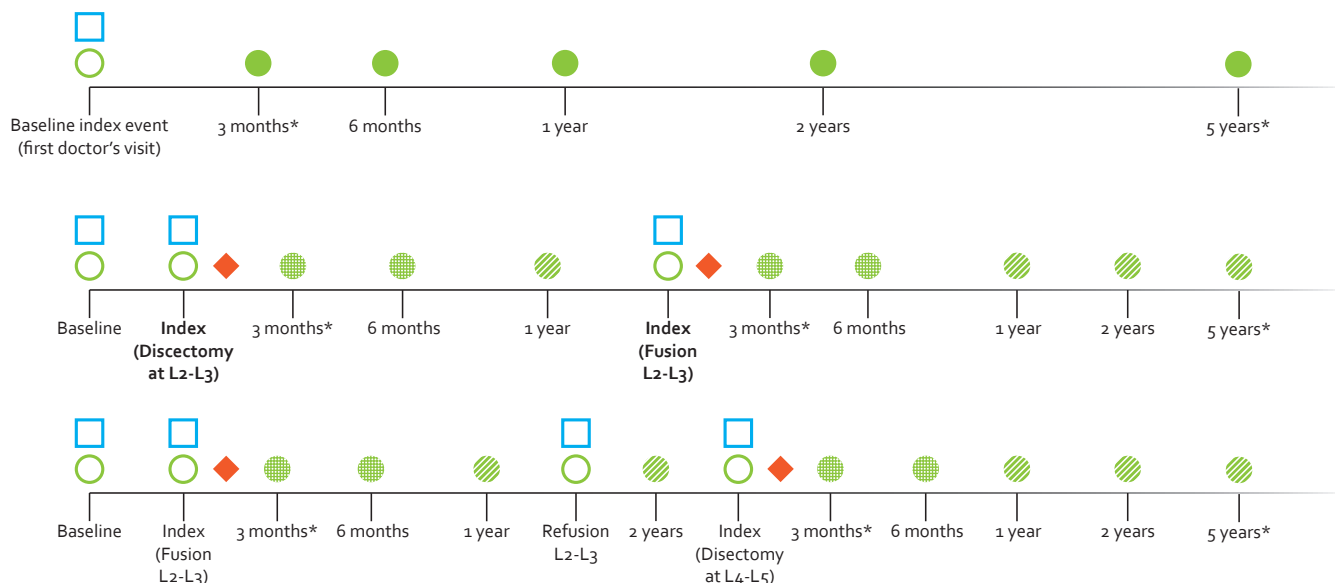
ODI: Oswestry Disability Index version 2.1a; NPRS: Numerical Pain Rating Scale; EQ-5D-3L: EuroQol-5D descriptive system (EQ-5D-3L) and visual analogue scale (EQ-VAS)

## Outcomes

Patient Population	Measure	Supporting Information	Timing	Data Source
<b>Acute Complications of Treatment</b>				
Surgically treated patients	Operative mortality	Date of death	During the index hospitalization	Clinical
	Nerve root injury	N/A		
	Wrong site procedure	N/A		
	Vascular injury	N/A		
	Dural tear	N/A		
	Other complications	N/A	Within 30 days of the index hospitalization	Administrative (where available)
	30 day mortality	Date of death		
	Need for rehospitalization	Date of rehospitalization		
	Deep wound infection	N/A		
	Pulmonary embolus	N/A		
Need for rehospitalization	N/A	Within 6 months after index hospitalization	Patient-reported	
<b>Disease Recurrence</b>				
Surgically treated patients	Need for reoperation	Date of reoperation	3*, 6 months; 1, 2, 5* years after index event	Patient-reported (if lacking registry for tracking across institutions)
			When occurs	Clinical
<b>Patient-Reported Health Status</b>				
All patients	Work status	Time to return to work and work demands	3*, 6 months; 1, 2, 5* years after index event	Patient-reported
	Need for continuous analgesic use	Use of narcotics or non-narcotics		
	Disability	Tracked via ODI		
	Back and leg pain	Tracked via NPRS		
	Health-related quality of life	Tracked via the EQ-5D-3L		







# Follow-Up Timeline and Sample Questionnaires

The following timeline illustrates when Standard Set variables should be collected from patients, clinicians, and administrative sources. Links to the sample questionnaires may be found in the legend below.



\* Recommended but not essential

The following questionnaires should be administered at the indicated time points

-  Baseline Patient-Reported Form ([link](#))
-  Baseline Clinical Form ([link](#))
-  6 Month Patient-Reported Form (Surgical patients) ([link](#))
-  1, 2, 5 Year Patient-Reported Form (Surgical patients) ([link](#))
-  Follow-Up Patient-Reported Form (Conservative patients) ([link](#))
-  Follow-Up Administrative Form ([link](#))



# Index Events and Reoperations

Index events to begin measurement of the Low Back Pain Standard Set include the initiation of non-surgical or surgical treatment of any of the diagnoses listed on page 3. Because the treatment of low back pain often leads to multiple therapies and sometimes multiple surgeries, it is important to be clear when the initiation of a new treatment constitutes a “reset” of the measurement timeline, called a new index event. In such cases, the follow-up of the prior event is discontinued.

There are three scenarios that constitute a new index event:

- 1) Spinal surgery after a period of non-surgical treatment
- 2) Second or following spinal surgery on a different level than the index surgery, regardless of diagnosis;
- 3) Second or following spinal surgery on the same level as index surgery, but for a different diagnosis.

Reoperations are not considered index events. Reoperations are defined as below. For reoperations, follow-up should continue as planned from the index surgery.

- 1) An operation on the same level as the prior index event due to a complication
- 2) An operation on another level but due to complication from prior index surgery
- 3) An operation on the same level for the same diagnosis as the prior index event

## Collecting Patient-Reported Outcome Measures

Low Back Pain Survey Used	Licensing Information	Scoring Guides
Oswestry Disability Index version 2.1a (ODI)	The ODI is free for all health care organizations, but a license is needed for use. For more information, please visit <a href="http://www.proqolid.org/instruments/oswestry_disability_index_odi">http://www.proqolid.org/instruments/oswestry_disability_index_odi</a>	See link at left
Numerical Pain Rating Scale (NPRS)	The NPRS is free for all health care organizations, and a license is not needed.	Not applicable
EuroQol-5D descriptive system (EQ-5D-3L) and visual analogue scale (EQ-VAS)	The EQ-5D-3L is free for non-profits and academic research, but a license is needed for use. For more information, please visit <a href="http://www.euroqol.org/eq-5d-products/how-to-obtain-eq-5d.html">http://www.euroqol.org/eq-5d-products/how-to-obtain-eq-5d.html</a>	See link at left

## The Growing ICHOM Community

By implementing the ICHOM Standard Sets, you become part of an expanding, international community of innovative health care providers dedicated to improving value for patients. To learn more about how ICHOM can assist your organization in implementing outcome measurement, contact us at [implement@ichom.org](mailto:implement@ichom.org), or visit <http://www.ichom.org/measure>.





# Introduction to the Data Dictionary

This data dictionary is designed to help you measure the ICHOM Low Back Pain Standard Set as consistently as possible to the Working Group recommendation. ICHOM is actively preparing for benchmarking efforts based on this data, and all data submitted for comparisons will need to be transformed into the following data structure if not already structured as such. **We are happy to provide an Excel version of this data dictionary for technical use.**

Please timestamp all variables. Some Standard Set variables are collected at multiple timepoints, and we will ask you to submit these variables in a concatenated VARIABLEID\_TIMESTAMP form for future analyses. For example, VARIABLEID\_BASE (baseline); VARIABLEID\_6MO (6 month follow-up); VARIABLEID\_1YR (1 year follow-up), etc.

## Case-Mix Variables

CASE-MIX VARIABLES

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<b>Variable ID:</b>	N/A
<b>Variable:</b>	Patient ID
<b>Definition:</b>	Indicate the patient's medical record number
<b>Supporting Definition:</b>	This number will not be shared with ICHOM. In the case patient-level data is submitted to ICHOM for benchmarking or research purposes, a separate ICHOM Patient Identifier will be created and cross-linking between the ICHOM Patient Identifier and the medical record number will only be known at the treating institution
<b>Inclusion Criteria:</b>	All patients
<b>Timing:</b>	On all forms
<b>Data Source:</b>	Administrative or clinical
<b>Type:</b>	Numerical
<b>Response Options:</b>	According to institution

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## Demographic Factors

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<b>Variable ID:</b>	AGE
<b>Variable:</b>	Age
<b>Definition:</b>	What is your date of birth?
<b>Supporting Definition:</b>	N/A
<b>Inclusion Criteria:</b>	All patients
<b>Timing:</b>	Baseline
<b>Data Source:</b>	Patient-reported
<b>Type:</b>	Date by DD/MM/YYYY
<b>Response Options:</b>	DD/MM/YYYY

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<b>Variable ID:</b>	SEX
<b>Variable:</b>	Sex
<b>Definition:</b>	Please indicate your sex at birth
<b>Supporting Definition:</b>	N/A
<b>Inclusion Criteria:</b>	All patients
<b>Timing:</b>	Baseline
<b>Data Source:</b>	Patient-reported
<b>Type:</b>	Single answer
<b>Response Options:</b>	1 = Male 2 = Female

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999 = Undisclosed

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<b>Variable ID:</b>	EDUCATION
<b>Variable:</b>	Educational level
<b>Definition:</b>	Please indicate highest level of schooling completed
<b>Supporting Definition:</b>	The level of schooling is defined in each country as per ISCED [International Standard Classification]
<b>Inclusion Criteria:</b>	All patients
<b>Timing:</b>	Baseline
<b>Data Source:</b>	Patient-reported
<b>Type:</b>	Single answer
<b>Response Options:</b>	0 = None 1 = Primary 2 = Secondary 3 = Tertiary

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### Baseline Functional Status

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<b>Variable ID:</b>	WORK
<b>Variable:</b>	Work status
<b>Definition:</b>	What is your work status?
<b>Supporting Definition:</b>	N/A
<b>Inclusion Criteria:</b>	All patients
<b>Timing:</b>	Baseline
<b>Data Source:</b>	Patient-reported
<b>Type:</b>	Single answer
<b>Response Options:</b>	0 = Unable to work due to a condition other than back or leg pain 1 = Unable to work due to back or leg pain 2 = Not working by choice (student, retired, homemaker) 3 = Seeking employment (I consider myself able to work but cannot find a job) 4 = Working part-time 5 = Working full-time

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<b>Variable ID:</b>	SICKLEAVE
<b>Variable:</b>	Sick leave
<b>Definition:</b>	Are you currently on sick leave from work?
<b>Supporting Definition:</b>	N/A
<b>Inclusion Criteria:</b>	All patients
<b>Timing:</b>	Baseline
<b>Data Source:</b>	Patient-reported
<b>Type:</b>	Single answer
<b>Response Options:</b>	0 = No 1 = Yes, full time for my back problems 2 = Yes, part time for my back problems 3 = Yes, due to another disease

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<b>Variable ID:</b>	SICKLEAVEDUR
<b>Variable:</b>	Duration of sick leave
<b>Definition:</b>	Since when?
<b>Supporting Definition:</b>	N/A
<b>Inclusion Criteria:</b>	All patients If answered 'yes' to currently being on sick leave (SICKLEAVE)
<b>Timing:</b>	Baseline
<b>Data Source:</b>	Patient-reported
<b>Type:</b>	Single answer
<b>Response Options:</b>	1 = 1 week or less 2 = 1-4 weeks 3 = 1-3 months 4 = 3-6 months 5 = 6-9 months

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6 = 9-12 months  
 7 = 1-2 years  
 8 = More than 2 years

<b>Variable ID:</b>	ODI_Qo1
<b>Variable:</b>	Question 1 of ODI
<b>Definition:</b>	This questionnaire is designed to give us information as to how your back (or leg) trouble affects your ability to manage in everyday life. Please answer every section. Select only one option in each section that most closely describes you today. Section 1 - Pain intensity
<b>Supporting Definition:</b>	N/A
<b>Inclusion Criteria:</b>	All patients
<b>Timing:</b>	Baseline
<b>Data Source:</b>	Patient-reported
<b>Type:</b>	Single answer
<b>Response Options:</b>	1 = I have no pain at the moment 2 = The pain is very mild at the moment 3 = The pain is moderate at the moment 4 = The pain is fairly severe at the moment 5 = The pain is very severe at the moment 6 = The pain is the worst imaginable at the moment
<b>Variable ID:</b>	ODI_Qo2
<b>Variable:</b>	Question 2 of ODI
<b>Definition:</b>	Section 2 - Personal care (washing, dressing, etc.)
<b>Supporting Definition:</b>	N/A
<b>Inclusion Criteria:</b>	All patients
<b>Timing:</b>	Baseline
<b>Data Source:</b>	Patient-reported
<b>Type:</b>	Single answer
<b>Response Options:</b>	1 = I can look after myself normally without causing extra pain 2 = I can look after myself normally but it is very painful 3 = It is painful to look after myself and I am slow and careful 4 = I need some help but manage most of my personal care 5 = I need help every day in most aspects of self care 6 = I do not get dressed, wash with difficulty and stay in bed
<b>Variable ID:</b>	ODI_Qo3
<b>Variable:</b>	Question 3 of ODI
<b>Definition:</b>	Section 3 - Lifting
<b>Supporting Definition:</b>	N/A
<b>Inclusion Criteria:</b>	All patients
<b>Timing:</b>	Baseline
<b>Data Source:</b>	Patient-reported
<b>Type:</b>	Single answer
<b>Response Options:</b>	1 = I can lift heavy weights without extra pain 2 = I can lift heavy weights but it gives extra pain 3 = Pain prevents me from lifting heavy weights off the floor but I can manage if they are conveniently positioned, e.g. on a table 4 = Pain prevents me from lifting heavy weights but I can manage light to medium weights if they are conveniently positioned 5 = I can lift only very light weights 6 = I cannot lift or carry anything at all
<b>Variable ID:</b>	ODI_Qo4
<b>Variable:</b>	Question 4 of ODI
<b>Definition:</b>	Section 4 - Walking
<b>Supporting Definition:</b>	N/A
<b>Inclusion Criteria:</b>	All patients

**Timing:** Baseline  
**Data Source:** Patient-reported  
**Type:** Single answer  
**Response Options:** 1 = Pain does not prevent me walking any distance  
 2 = Pain prevents me walking more than one mile  
 3 = Pain prevents me walking more than a quarter of a mile  
 4 = Pain prevents me walking more than 100 yards  
 5 = I can only walk using a stick or crutches  
 6 = I am in bed most of the time and have to crawl to the toilet

**Variable ID:** ODI\_Qo5  
**Variable:** Question 5 of ODI  
**Definition:** Section 5 - Sitting  
**Supporting Definition:** N/A  
**Inclusion Criteria:** All patients  
**Timing:** Baseline  
**Data Source:** Patient-reported  
**Type:** Single answer  
**Response Options:** 1 = I can sit in any chair as long as I like  
 2 = I can sit in my favorite chair as long as I like  
 3 = Pain prevents me from sitting for more than 1 hour  
 4 = Pain prevents me from sitting for more than half an hour  
 5 = Pain prevents me from sitting for more than 10 minutes  
 6 = Pain prevents me from sitting at all

**Variable ID:** ODI\_Qo6  
**Variable:** Question 6 of ODI  
**Definition:** Section 6 - Standing  
**Supporting Definition:** N/A  
**Inclusion Criteria:** All patients  
**Timing:** Baseline  
**Data Source:** Patient-reported  
**Type:** Single answer  
**Response Options:** 1 = I can stand as long as I want without extra pain  
 2 = I can stand as long as I want but it gives me extra pain  
 3 = Pain prevents me from standing for more than 1 hour  
 4 = Pain prevents me from standing for more than half an hour  
 5 = Pain prevents me from standing for more than 10 minutes  
 6 = Pain prevents me from standing at all

**Variable ID:** ODI\_Qo7  
**Variable:** Question 7 of ODI  
**Definition:** Section 7 - Sleeping  
**Supporting Definition:** N/A  
**Inclusion Criteria:** All patients  
**Timing:** Baseline  
**Data Source:** Patient-reported  
**Type:** Single answer  
**Response Options:** 1 = My sleep is never disturbed by pain  
 2 = My sleep is occasionally disturbed by pain  
 3 = Because of pain I have less than 6 hours sleep  
 4 = Because of pain I have less than 4 hours sleep  
 5 = Because of pain I have less than 2 hours sleep  
 6 = Pain prevents me from sleeping at all

**Variable ID:** ODI\_Qo8  
**Variable:** Question 8 of ODI  
**Definition:** Section 8 - Sex life (if applicable)  
**Supporting Definition:** N/A  
**Inclusion Criteria:** All patients

**Timing:** Baseline  
**Data Source:** Patient-reported  
**Type:** Single answer  
**Response Options:** 1 = My sex life is normal and causes no extra pain  
 2 = My sex life is normal but causes some extra pain  
 3 = My sex life is nearly normal but is very painful  
 4 = My sex life is severely restricted by pain  
 5 = My sex life is nearly absent because of pain  
 6 = Pain prevents any sex life at all

**Variable ID:** ODI\_Q09  
**Variable:** Question 9 of ODI  
**Definition:** Section 9 - Social life  
**Supporting Definition:** N/A  
**Inclusion Criteria:** All patients  
**Timing:** Baseline  
**Data Source:** Patient-reported  
**Type:** Single answer  
**Response Options:** 1 = My social life is normal and causes me no extra pain  
 2 = My social life is normal but increases the degree of pain  
 3 = Pain has no significant effect on my social life apart from limiting my more energetic interests, e.g. sport, etc  
 4 = Pain has restricted my social life and I do not go out as often  
 5 = Pain has restricted social life to my home  
 6 = I have no social life because of pain

**Variable ID:** ODI\_Q10  
**Variable:** Question 10 of ODI  
**Definition:** Section 10 - Traveling  
**Supporting Definition:** N/A  
**Inclusion Criteria:** All patients  
**Timing:** Baseline  
**Data Source:** Patient-reported  
**Type:** Single answer  
**Response Options:** 1 = I can travel anywhere without pain  
 2 = I can travel anywhere but it gives extra pain  
 3 = Pain is bad but I manage journeys over two hours  
 4 = Pain restricts me to journeys of less than one hour  
 5 = Pain restricts me to short necessary journeys under 30 minutes  
 6 = Pain prevents me from travelling except to receive treatment

**Variable ID:** NPRS\_Q01  
**Variable:** Question 1 of NPRS  
**Definition:** On a scale of 0 to 10, with 0 being no pain at all and 10 being the worst pain imaginable, please indicate your average back pain over the last 7 days  
**Supporting Definition:** N/A  
**Inclusion Criteria:** All patients  
**Timing:** Baseline  
**Data Source:** Patient-reported  
**Type:** Numerical value  
**Response Options:** Ordinal values from 0 to 10, with 'No pain' marked at '0' and 'Worst pain imaginable' marked at '10'

**Variable ID:** NPRS\_Q02  
**Variable:** Question 2 of NPRS  
**Definition:** On a scale of 0 to 10, with 0 being no pain at all and 10 being the worst pain imaginable, please indicate your average leg pain over the last 7 days  
**Supporting Definition:** N/A  
**Inclusion Criteria:** All patients  
**Timing:** Baseline

**Data Source:** Patient-reported  
**Type:** Numerical value  
**Response Options:** Ordinal values from 0 to 10, with 'No pain' marked at '0' and 'Worst pain imaginable' marked at '10'

**Variable ID:** EQ5D\_Q01

**Variable:** Question 1 of EQ5D

**Definition:** By selection an option in each group below, please indicate which statements best describe your own health state today.

Mobility

**Supporting Definition:** N/A

**Inclusion Criteria:** All patients

**Timing:** Baseline

**Data Source:** Patient-reported

**Type:** Single answer

**Response Options:** 1 = I have no problems in walking about  
 2 = I have some problems in walking about  
 3 = I am confined to bed

**Variable ID:** EQ5D\_Q02

**Variable:** Question 2 of EQ5D

**Definition:** Self-care

**Supporting Definition:** N/A

**Inclusion Criteria:** All patients

**Timing:** Baseline

**Data Source:** Patient-reported

**Type:** Single answer

**Response Options:** 1 = I have no problems with self-care  
 2 = I have some problems washing or dressing myself  
 3 = I am unable to wash or dress myself

**Variable ID:** EQ5D\_Q03

**Variable:** Question 3 of EQ5D

**Definition:** Usual activities (For example work, study, housework, family, or leisure activities)

**Supporting Definition:** N/A

**Inclusion Criteria:** All patients

**Timing:** Baseline

**Data Source:** Patient-reported

**Type:** Single answer

**Response Options:** 1 = I have no problems with performing my usual activities  
 2 = I have some problems with performing my usual activities  
 3 = I am unable to perform my usual activities

**Variable ID:** EQ5D\_Q04

**Variable:** Question 4 of EQ5D

**Definition:** Pain/discomfort

**Supporting Definition:** N/A

**Inclusion Criteria:** All patients

**Timing:** Baseline

**Data Source:** Patient-reported

**Type:** Single answer

**Response Options:** 1 = I have no pain or discomfort  
 2 = I have moderate pain or discomfort  
 3 = I have extreme pain or discomfort

**Variable ID:** EQ5D\_Q05

**Variable:** Question 5 of EQ5D

**Definition:** Anxiety/depression

**Supporting Definition:** N/A

**Inclusion Criteria:** All patients

**Timing:** Baseline



**Data Source:** Patient-reported  
**Type:** Single answer  
**Response Options:** 1 = I am not anxious or depressed  
 2 = I am moderately anxious or depressed  
 3 = I am extremely anxious or depressed

**Variable ID:** EQ5D\_Qo6  
**Variable:** Question 6 of EQ5D  
**Definition:** To help people say how good or bad a health state is, we have drawn a scale (rather like a thermometer) on which the best state you can imagine is marked 100 and the worst state you can imagine is marked 0.  
 We would like you to indicate on this scale how good or bad your own health is today, in your opinion. Please do this by drawing a line from the box below to whichever point on the scale indicates how good or bad your health state is today.

**Supporting Definition:** N/A

**Inclusion Criteria:** All patients

**Timing:** Baseline

**Data Source:** Patient-reported

**Type:** Visual scale

**Response Options:** Refer to visual analogue scale in sample questionnaire

## Baseline Clinical Factors

**Variable ID:** SMOKE  
**Variable:** Smoking status  
**Definition:** Do you smoke?

**Supporting Definition:** N/A

**Inclusion Criteria:** All patients

**Timing:** Baseline

**Data Source:** Patient-reported

**Type:** Single answer

**Response Options:** 0 = No  
 1 = Yes

**Variable ID:** COMORB  
**Variable:** Comorbidities  
**Definition:** Have you been told by a doctor that you have any of the following?

**Supporting Definition:** Based upon the Self-administered Comorbidity Questionnaire (Sangha et al, 2003)

**Inclusion Criteria:** All patients

**Timing:** Baseline

**Data Source:** Patient-reported

**Type:** Multiple answer  
 Separate multiple entries with ";"

**Response Options:** 0 = I have no other diseases  
 1 = Heart disease (For example angina, heart attack, or heart failure)  
 2 = High blood pressure  
 3 = Leg pain when walking due to poor circulation  
 4 = Lung disease (For example asthma, chronic bronchitis, or emphysema)  
 5 = Diabetes  
 6 = Kidney disease  
 7 = Liver disease  
 8 = Problems caused by stroke  
 9 = Disease of the nervous system (For example Parkinson's disease or Multiple Sclerosis)  
 10 = Cancer (within the last 5 years)  
 11 = Depression  
 12 = Arthritis

**Variable ID:** BACKPAINDUR  
**Variable:** Duration of back pain

**Definition:** How long have you had your current back pain?  
**Supporting Definition:** N/A  
**Inclusion Criteria:** All patients  
**Timing:** Baseline  
**Data Source:** Patient-reported  
**Type:** Single answer  
**Response Options:** 0 = I don't have back pain  
 1 = Less than 3 months  
 2 = 3-12 months  
 3 = 1-2 years  
 4 = More than 2 years

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**Variable ID:** LEGPAIN DUR  
**Variable:** Duration of leg pain  
**Definition:** How long have you had pain radiating to your leg(s)?  
**Supporting Definition:** N/A  
**Inclusion Criteria:** All patients  
**Timing:** Baseline  
**Data Source:** Patient-reported  
**Type:** Single answer  
**Response Options:** 0 = I don't have pain radiating to my leg(s)  
 1 = Less than 3 months  
 2 = 3-12 months  
 3 = 1-2 years  
 4 = More than 2 years

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**Variable ID:** HEIGHT  
**Variable:** Height  
**Definition:** Indicate the patient's height  
**Supporting Definition:** Height and weight are used to calculate BMI  
**Inclusion Criteria:** All patients  
**Timing:** Baseline  
**Data Source:** Clinical  
**Type:** Numerical value  
**Response Options:** Numerical value of height in cm or in

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**Variable ID:** HEIGHTUNIT  
**Variable:** Height units  
**Definition:** Indicate units of height  
**Supporting Definition:** N/A  
**Inclusion Criteria:** All patients  
**Timing:** Baseline  
**Data Source:** Clinical  
**Type:** Single answer  
**Response Options:** 1 = centimeters  
 2 = inches

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**Variable ID:** WEIGHT  
**Variable:** Weight  
**Definition:** Indicate the patient's weight  
**Supporting Definition:** Height and weight are used to calculate BMI  
**Inclusion Criteria:** All patients  
**Timing:** Baseline  
**Data Source:** Clinical  
**Type:** Numerical value  
**Response Options:** Numerical value of weight in kg or lbs

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**Variable ID:** WEIGHTUNIT  
**Variable:** Weight units  
**Definition:** Indicate units of weight  
**Supporting Definition:** N/A

**Inclusion Criteria:** All patients  
**Timing:** Baseline  
**Data Source:** Clinical  
**Type:** Single answer  
**Response Options:** 1 = kilograms  
 2 = pounds

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**Variable ID:** GLASSSYM

**Variable:** Diagnostic classification (according to Glassman criteria): Symptoms

**Definition:** Select one

**Supporting Definition:** Back pain dominant, acute: Primary complaint is LBP. Symptoms  $\leq 3$  months  
 Leg pain dominant, acute: Primary complaint is leg pain. Symptoms  $\leq 3$  months  
 Back pain = Leg pain, acute: Patient reports 50 +/- 10% of each. Symptoms  $\leq 3$  months  
 Back pain dominant, chronic: Primary complaint is LBP. Symptoms  $> 3$  months  
 Leg pain dominant, chronic: Primary complaint is leg pain. Symptoms  $> 3$  months  
 Back pain = leg pain, chronic: Patient reports 50 +/- 10% of each. Symptoms  $> 3$  months  
 Neurogenic claudication: Numbness, weakness, or pain to the buttocks or legs, exacerbated by walking or standing, relieved by sitting  
 Cauda equina syndrome: Dominant complaint is motor weakness, incontinence or Cauda equina syndrome, with or without associated complaints of pain

**Inclusion Criteria:** All patients

**Timing:** Baseline

**Data Source:** Clinical

**Type:** Single answer

**Response Options:** 1 = Back pain dominant, acute  
 2 = Leg pain dominant, acute  
 3 = Back pain = Leg pain, acute  
 4 = Back pain dominant, chronic  
 5 = Leg pain dominant, chronic  
 6 = Back pain = leg pain, chronic  
 7 = Neurogenic claudication  
 8 = Cauda equina syndrome

---

**Variable ID:** GLASSSP

**Variable:** Diagnostic classification (according to Glassman criteria): Structural pathology

**Definition:** Select one

**Supporting Definition:** Not defined: No study ordered, or no study interpretation available for determination of structural pathology  
 Age appropriate: Structural changes are consistent with normal aging and not a clinically relevant source of symptoms  
 Disc pathology with normal disc height: Disc pathology without significant loss of disc height, includes disc herniation, internal disc desiccation and annular tear  
 Disc space collapse: Disc pathology with mechanical disc space collapse with or without associated disc space pathology  
 Spondylolisthesis/Spondylolysis: Any listhesis, including degenerative and isthmic spondylolisthesis  
 Scoliosis/Kyphosis: Lumbar spine deformity including localized scoliosis or kyphosis  
 Facet pathology: Significant facet arthrosis or degeneration, including synovial cysts

**Inclusion Criteria:** All patients

**Timing:** Baseline

**Data Source:** Clinical

**Type:** Single answer

**Response Options:** 1 = Not defined  
 2 = Age appropriate  
 3 = Disc pathology with normal disc height

4 = Disc space collapse  
 5 = Spondylolisthesis/ Spondylolysis  
 6 = Scoliosis/Kyphosis  
 7 = Facet pathology

---

<b>Variable ID:</b>	GLASSCP
<b>Variable:</b>	Diagnostic classification (according to Glassman criteria): Compressive pathology
<b>Definition:</b>	Select one
<b>Supporting Definition:</b>	Not defined: No study ordered, or no study interpretation available for determination of compressive pathology None: No clinically relevant compressive pathology Central: Compression in the central canala region (between the lateral margins of the dura) from any etiology Lateral: Compression in the lateral recess or foraminal regions (lateral to the lateral margins of the dura) from any etiology Combined: Compression in the central canal and latera recess/foraminal regions from any etiology Recurrent: Recurrent compression following previous surgical treatment at the same level, either in a central canala and/or recess/foraminal regions
<b>Inclusion Criteria:</b>	All patients
<b>Timing:</b>	Baseline
<b>Data Source:</b>	Clinical
<b>Type:</b>	Single answer
<b>Response Options:</b>	1 = Not defined 2 = None 3 = Central 4 = Lateral 5 = Combined 6 = Recurrent

---

<b>Variable ID:</b>	ASA
<b>Variable:</b>	ASA rating
<b>Definition:</b>	Answer the following questions only if the patient is receiving spinal procedures (surgery or injections) Indicate the morbidity state of the patient
<b>Supporting Definition:</b>	ASA1: no disturbance ASA2: mild/moderate ASA3: severe ASA4: life-threatening ASA5: moribund
<b>Inclusion Criteria:</b>	Surgically treated patients
<b>Timing:</b>	Baseline
<b>Data Source:</b>	Clinical
<b>Type:</b>	Single answer
<b>Response Options:</b>	1 = 1 2 = 2 3 = 3 4 = 4 5 = 5 999 = Unknown

---

<b>Variable ID:</b>	SURGINd
<b>Variable:</b>	Surgical indication
<b>Definition:</b>	Indicate the reason for surgery
<b>Supporting Definition:</b>	N/A
<b>Inclusion Criteria:</b>	Surgically treated patients
<b>Timing:</b>	Baseline
<b>Data Source:</b>	Clinical
<b>Type:</b>	Single answer

---

**Response Options:** 1 = Paramedian disc herniation  
 2 = Central disc herniation  
 3 = Central spinal stenosis with degen. listhesis  
 4 = Central spinal stenosis without degen. listhesis  
 5 = Lateral spinal stenosis  
 6 = Spondylolysis/Spondylolisthesis, isthmic  
 7 = Segmental pain (with or without degen. listhesis)  
 8 = Postoperative instability  
 9 = Degen. scoliosis  
 999 = Other

---

## Prior Treatment

---

**Variable ID:** PAINMEDPR  
**Variable:** Need for continuous analgesic use (non-narcotics)  
**Definition:** Do you take any of the following?  
 Over the counter or non-prescription pain medication

**Supporting Definition:** N/A  
**Inclusion Criteria:** All patients  
**Timing:** Baseline  
**Data Source:** Patient-reported  
**Type:** Single answer  
**Response Options:** 0 = No  
 1 = Yes, regularly  
 2 = Yes, sometimes

---

**Variable ID:** PAINMEDO  
**Variable:** Need for continuous analgesic use (narcotics)  
**Definition:** Prescription pain medication (opioid or narcotic medications)

**Supporting Definition:** N/A  
**Inclusion Criteria:** All patients  
**Timing:** Baseline  
**Data Source:** Patient-reported  
**Type:** Single answer  
**Response Options:** 0 = No  
 1 = Yes, regularly  
 2 = Yes, sometimes

---

**Variable ID:** PRIORINTER  
**Variable:** Prior back surgery  
**Definition:** Indicate if the patient has had previous procedural back interventions

**Supporting Definition:** N/A  
**Inclusion Criteria:** Surgically treated patients  
**Timing:** Baseline  
**Data Source:** Clinical  
**Type:** Single answer  
**Response Options:** 0 = No  
 1 = Yes

---

**Variable ID:** PRIORINTER1DATE  
**Variable:** Prior interventions dates\*  
**Definition:** Indicate when the patient had previous procedural back interventions

**Supporting Definition:** N/A  
**Inclusion Criteria:** Surgically treated patients  
 If patient has had previous procedural back interventions (INTERVENT)  
**Timing:** Baseline  
**Data Source:** Clinical  
**Type:** Date by MM/YYYY

**Response Options:** MM/YYYY  
**Variable ID:** PRIORINTER1TYPE

---

<b>Variable:</b>	Prior interventions types*
<b>Definition:</b>	Indicate the type of the previous procedural back interventions
<b>Supporting Definition:</b>	N/A
<b>Inclusion Criteria:</b>	Surgically treated patients If patient has had previous procedural back interventions (INTERVENT)
<b>Timing:</b>	Baseline
<b>Data Source:</b>	Clinical
<b>Type:</b>	Single answer
<b>Response Options:</b>	1 = Discectomy 2 = Decompression 3 = Fusion
<b>Variable ID:</b>	PRIORINTER1LEVEL
<b>Variable:</b>	Prior interventions levels*
<b>Definition:</b>	Indicate the levels of the previous procedural back interventions
<b>Supporting Definition:</b>	N/A
<b>Inclusion Criteria:</b>	Surgically treated patients If patient has had previous procedural back interventions (INTERVENT)
<b>Timing:</b>	Baseline
<b>Data Source:</b>	Clinical
<b>Type:</b>	Single answer
<b>Response Options:</b>	1 = T12-L1 2 = L1-L2 3 = L2-L3 4 = L3-L4 5 = L4-L5 6 = L5-S1
<b>Variable ID:</b>	PRIORINTER2DATE
<b>Variable:</b>	Prior interventions dates*
<b>Definition:</b>	Indicate when the patient had previous procedural back interventions
<b>Supporting Definition:</b>	N/A
<b>Inclusion Criteria:</b>	Surgically treated patients If patient has had previous procedural back interventions (INTERVENT)
<b>Timing:</b>	Baseline
<b>Data Source:</b>	Clinical
<b>Type:</b>	Date by MM/YYYY
<b>Response Options:</b>	MM/YYYY
<b>Variable ID:</b>	PRIORINTER2TYPE
<b>Variable:</b>	Prior interventions types*
<b>Definition:</b>	Indicate the type of the previous procedural back interventions
<b>Supporting Definition:</b>	N/A
<b>Inclusion Criteria:</b>	Surgically treated patients If patient has had previous procedural back interventions (INTERVENT)
<b>Timing:</b>	Baseline
<b>Data Source:</b>	Clinical
<b>Type:</b>	Single answer
<b>Response Options:</b>	1 = Discectomy 2 = Decompression 3 = Fusion
<b>Variable ID:</b>	PRIORINTER2LEVEL
<b>Variable:</b>	Prior interventions levels*
<b>Definition:</b>	Indicate the levels of the previous procedural back interventions
<b>Supporting Definition:</b>	N/A
<b>Inclusion Criteria:</b>	Surgically treated patients If patient has had previous procedural back interventions (INTERVENT)
<b>Timing:</b>	Baseline
<b>Data Source:</b>	Clinical

<b>Type:</b>	Single answer
<b>Response Options:</b>	1 = T12-L1 2 = L1-L2 3 = L2-L3 4 = L3-L4 5 = L4-L5 6 = L5-S1
<b>Variable ID:</b>	PRIORINTER3DATE
<b>Variable:</b>	Prior interventions dates*
<b>Definition:</b>	Indicate when the patient had previous procedural back interventions
<b>Supporting Definition:</b>	N/A
<b>Inclusion Criteria:</b>	Surgically treated patients If patient has had previous procedural back interventions (INTERVENT)
<b>Timing:</b>	Baseline
<b>Data Source:</b>	Clinical
<b>Type:</b>	Date by MM/YYYY
<b>Response Options:</b>	MM/YYYY
<b>Variable ID:</b>	PRIORINTER3TYPE
<b>Variable:</b>	Prior interventions types*
<b>Definition:</b>	Indicate the type of the previous procedural back interventions
<b>Supporting Definition:</b>	N/A
<b>Inclusion Criteria:</b>	Surgically treated patients If patient has had previous procedural back interventions (INTERVENT)
<b>Timing:</b>	Baseline
<b>Data Source:</b>	Clinical
<b>Type:</b>	Single answer
<b>Response Options:</b>	1 = Discectomy 2 = Decompression 3 = Fusion
<b>Variable ID:</b>	PRIORINTER3LEVEL
<b>Variable:</b>	Prior interventions levels*
<b>Definition:</b>	Indicate the levels of the previous procedural back interventions
<b>Supporting Definition:</b>	N/A
<b>Inclusion Criteria:</b>	Surgically treated patients If patient has had previous procedural back interventions (INTERVENT)
<b>Timing:</b>	Baseline
<b>Data Source:</b>	Clinical
<b>Type:</b>	Single answer
<b>Response Options:</b>	1 = T12-L1 2 = L1-L2 3 = L2-L3 4 = L3-L4 5 = L4-L5 6 = L5-S1
<b>Variable ID:</b>	PRIORINTER4DATE
<b>Variable:</b>	Prior interventions dates*
<b>Definition:</b>	Indicate when the patient had previous procedural back interventions
<b>Supporting Definition:</b>	N/A
<b>Inclusion Criteria:</b>	Surgically treated patients If patient has had previous procedural back interventions (INTERVENT)
<b>Timing:</b>	Baseline
<b>Data Source:</b>	Clinical
<b>Type:</b>	Date by MM/YYYY
<b>Response Options:</b>	MM/YYYY
<b>Variable ID:</b>	PRIORINTER4TYPE
<b>Variable:</b>	Prior interventions types*



**Definition:** Indicate the type of the previous procedural back interventions  
**Supporting Definition:** N/A  
**Inclusion Criteria:** Surgically treated patients  
 If patient has had previous procedural back interventions (INTERVENT)  
**Timing:** Baseline  
**Data Source:** Clinical  
**Type:** Single answer  
**Response Options:** 1 = Discectomy  
 2 = Decompression  
 3 = Fusion

**Variable ID:** PRIORINTER<sub>4</sub>LEVEL  
**Variable:** Prior interventions levels\*  
**Definition:** Indicate the levels of the previous procedural back interventions  
**Supporting Definition:** N/A  
**Inclusion Criteria:** Surgically treated patients  
 If patient has had previous procedural back interventions (INTERVENT)  
**Timing:** Baseline  
**Data Source:** Clinical  
**Type:** Single answer  
**Response Options:** 1 = T12-L1  
 2 = L1-L2  
 3 = L2-L3  
 4 = L3-L4  
 5 = L4-L5  
 6 = L5-S1

**Variable ID:** PRIORINTER<sub>5</sub>DATE  
**Variable:** Prior interventions dates\*  
**Definition:** Indicate when the patient had previous procedural back interventions  
**Supporting Definition:** N/A  
**Inclusion Criteria:** Surgically treated patients  
 If patient has had previous procedural back interventions (INTERVENT)  
**Timing:** Baseline  
**Data Source:** Clinical  
**Type:** Date by MM/YYYY  
**Response Options:** MM/YYYY

**Variable ID:** PRIORINTER<sub>5</sub>TYPE  
**Variable:** Prior interventions types\*  
**Definition:** Indicate the type of the previous procedural back interventions  
**Supporting Definition:** N/A  
**Inclusion Criteria:** Surgically treated patients  
 If patient has had previous procedural back interventions (INTERVENT)  
**Timing:** Baseline  
**Data Source:** Clinical  
**Type:** Single answer  
**Response Options:** 1 = Discectomy  
 2 = Decompression  
 3 = Fusion

**Variable ID:** PRIORINTER<sub>5</sub>LEVEL  
**Variable:** Prior interventions levels\*  
**Definition:** Indicate the levels of the previous procedural back interventions  
**Supporting Definition:** N/A  
**Inclusion Criteria:** Surgically treated patients  
 If patient has had previous procedural back interventions (INTERVENT)  
**Timing:** Baseline  
**Data Source:** Clinical  
**Type:** Single answer

**Response Options:** 1 = T12-L1  
2 = L1-L2  
3 = L2-L3  
4 = L3-L4  
5 = L4-L5  
6 = L5-S1

\* Create functionality that allows user to add additional prior interventions as needed, up to 10

---

**Variable ID:** PROCEDURETYPE  
**Variable:** Current procedural intervention: Type  
**Definition:** Indicate type of current procedural intervention  
**Supporting Definition:** Decompression: e.g. laminectomy  
**Inclusion Criteria:** Surgical and injection therapy patients  
**Timing:** During index visit or hospitalization for procedure  
**Data Source:** Clinical  
**Type:** Single answer  
**Response Options:** 1 = Discectomy  
 2 = Decompression (laminectomy)  
 3 = Fusion  
 4 = Other back surgery  
 5 = Injection therapy

---

**Variable ID:** PROCEDURELEVEL  
**Variable:** Current procedural intervention: Level  
**Definition:** Indicate the level of the current procedural intervention  
**Supporting Definition:** N/A  
**Inclusion Criteria:** All patients  
**Timing:** During index visit or hospitalization for procedure  
**Data Source:** Clinical  
**Type:** Multiple answer  
**Response Options:** 1 = T12-L1  
 2 = L1-L2  
 3 = L2-L3  
 4 = L3-L4  
 5 = L4-L5  
 6 = L5-S1

---

**Acute Complications of Treatment**

<p><b>Variable ID:</b> DEATH  <b>Variable:</b> Death in hospital (all cause)  <b>Definition:</b> Indicate if patient died in-hospital following procedure (all-cause mortality)  <b>Supporting Definition:</b> N/A  <b>Inclusion Criteria:</b> Surgically treated patients  <b>Timing:</b> During the index hospitalization  <b>Data Source:</b> Clinical  <b>Type:</b> Single answer  <b>Response Options:</b> 0 = No  1 = Yes</p>
<p><b>Variable ID:</b> DEATHDATE  <b>Variable:</b> Date of death  <b>Definition:</b> Indicate date of death  <b>Supporting Definition:</b> N/A  <b>Inclusion Criteria:</b> Surgically treated patients  <b>Timing:</b> During the index hospitalization  <b>Data Source:</b> Clinical  <b>Type:</b> Date by DD/MM/YYYY  <b>Response Options:</b> DD/MM/YYYY</p>
<p><b>Variable ID:</b> NERROOINJ  <b>Variable:</b> Iatrogenic nerve root damage (incl. cauda equina)  <b>Definition:</b> Indicate if there was iatrogenic nerve root damage (including cauda equina) due to the intervention  <b>Supporting Definition:</b> N/A  <b>Inclusion Criteria:</b> Surgically treated patients  <b>Timing:</b> During the index hospitalization  <b>Data Source:</b> Clinical  <b>Type:</b> Single answer  <b>Response Options:</b> 0 = No  1 = Yes</p>
<p><b>Variable ID:</b> WRONGSP  <b>Variable:</b> Unintentional surgery on wrong site/level  <b>Definition:</b> Indicate if there was unintentional surgery on the wrong level/site, not on level of main pathology  <b>Supporting Definition:</b> N/A  <b>Inclusion Criteria:</b> Surgically treated patients  <b>Timing:</b> During the index hospitalization  <b>Data Source:</b> Clinical  <b>Type:</b> Single answer  <b>Response Options:</b> 0 = No  1 = Yes</p>
<p><b>Variable ID:</b> VASINJ  <b>Variable:</b> Iatrogenous damage to a vessel  <b>Definition:</b> Indicate if there was relevant iatrogenous damage to a vessel  <b>Supporting Definition:</b> N/A  <b>Inclusion Criteria:</b> Surgically treated patients  <b>Timing:</b> During the index hospitalization  <b>Data Source:</b> Clinical  <b>Type:</b> Single answer  <b>Response Options:</b> 0 = No  1 = Yes</p>
<p><b>Variable ID:</b> DURTEAR  <b>Variable:</b> Iatrogenous damage of dura with liquor emission</p>

<b>Definition:</b>	Indicate if there was iatrogenous damage of a dura with liquor emission
<b>Supporting Definition:</b>	N/A
<b>Inclusion Criteria:</b>	Surgically treated patients
<b>Timing:</b>	During the index hospitalization
<b>Data Source:</b>	Clinical
<b>Type:</b>	Single answer
<b>Response Options:</b>	0 = No 1 = Yes
<b>Variable ID:</b>	OTHERCOMPL
<b>Variable:</b>	Other complications
<b>Definition:</b>	Indicate if there were other complications (e.g. superficial hematoma, malpositioned implant, donor-site pain, DVT without PE, and/or device failure)
<b>Supporting Definition:</b>	N/A
<b>Inclusion Criteria:</b>	Surgically treated patients
<b>Timing:</b>	During the index hospitalization
<b>Data Source:</b>	Clinical
<b>Type:</b>	Single answer
<b>Response Options:</b>	0 = No 1 = Yes
<b>Variable ID:</b>	30DAYMORTADMIN
<b>Variable:</b>	Death within 30 days of procedure
<b>Definition:</b>	Indicate if patient died within 30 days following procedure (all-cause mortality)
<b>Supporting Definition:</b>	N/A
<b>Inclusion Criteria:</b>	Surgically treated patients
<b>Timing:</b>	Within 30 days of the index hospitalization
<b>Data Source:</b>	Administrative (where available)
<b>Type:</b>	Single answer
<b>Response Options:</b>	0 = No 1 = Yes
<b>Variable ID:</b>	30DAYMORTADMINDATE
<b>Variable:</b>	Date of death
<b>Definition:</b>	Indicate date of death
<b>Supporting Definition:</b>	N/A
<b>Inclusion Criteria:</b>	Surgically treated patients
<b>Timing:</b>	Within 30 days of the index hospitalization
<b>Data Source:</b>	Administrative (where available)
<b>Type:</b>	Date by DD/MM/YYYY
<b>Response Options:</b>	DD/MM/YYYY
<b>Variable ID:</b>	REHOSPADMIN
<b>Variable:</b>	Readmission to acute care facility within 30 days
<b>Definition:</b>	Indicate if the patient was admitted to an acute care facility as an inpatient within 30 days from the date of index intervention for ANY reason
<b>Supporting Definition:</b>	N/A
<b>Inclusion Criteria:</b>	Surgically treated patients
<b>Timing:</b>	Within 30 days of the index hospitalization
<b>Data Source:</b>	Administrative (where available)
<b>Type:</b>	Single answer
<b>Response Options:</b>	0 = No 1 = Yes
<b>Variable ID:</b>	REHOSPADMINDATE
<b>Variable:</b>	Date of rehospitalization
<b>Definition:</b>	Indicate date of rehospitalization(s)
<b>Supporting Definition:</b>	Do not include admissions to rehabilitation hospital or nursing home
<b>Inclusion Criteria:</b>	Surgically treated patients
<b>Timing:</b>	Within 30 days of the index hospitalization
<b>Data Source:</b>	Administrative (where available)

**Type:** Date by DD/MM/YYYY  
**Response Options:** DD/MM/YYYY

**Variable ID:** WOUINF

**Variable:** Deep wound infection

**Definition:** The following questions refer to your low back surgery that occurred roughly 6 months ago:

Were you treated with antibiotics (penicillins or similar) for 6 weeks or longer for a deep infection in the surgical site within 3 months after surgery?

**Supporting Definition:** N/A

**Inclusion Criteria:** Surgically treated patients

**Timing:** 6 months after index hospitalization

**Data Source:** Patient-reported

**Type:** Single answer

**Response Options:** 0 = No  
1 = Yes

**Variable ID:** PULMEMB

**Variable:** Pulmonary embolus

**Definition:** Were you diagnosed with and treated for pulmonary emboli (blood clot in the lung) within 3 months after surgery?

**Supporting Definition:** N/A

**Inclusion Criteria:** Surgically treated patients

**Timing:** 6 months after index hospitalization

**Data Source:** Patient-reported

**Type:** Single answer

**Response Options:** 0 = No  
1 = Yes

**Variable ID:** REHOSPATIENT

**Variable:** Need for rehospitalization

**Definition:** Were you admitted overnight in the hospital (excluding emergency room visits) for ANY reason during the 30 days after you underwent your back surgery?

**Supporting Definition:** N/A

**Inclusion Criteria:** Surgically treated patients

**Timing:** 6 months after index hospitalization

**Data Source:** Patient-reported

**Type:** Single answer

**Response Options:** 0 = No  
1 = Yes

## Disease Recurrence

**Variable ID:** REOPPATIENT

**Variable:** Need for reoperation

**Definition:** Have you had any additional low back surgery at the same level?

**Supporting Definition:** N/A

**Inclusion Criteria:** Surgically treated patients

**Timing:** 3\*, 6 months  
1, 2, 5\* year after index event

**Data Source:** Patient-reported (if lacking registry for tracking across institutions)

**Type:** Single answer

**Response Options:** 0 = No  
1 = Yes

**Variable ID:** REOPDATE

**Variable:** Date of reoperation

**Definition:** If yes, when did you have you surgery?

**Supporting Definition:** N/A

**Inclusion Criteria:** Surgically treated patients  
If answered 'yes' to having a reoperation (REOP)

<b>Timing:</b>	3*, 6 months 1, 2, 5* year after index event
<b>Data Source:</b>	Patient-reported (if lacking registry for tracking across institutions)
<b>Type:</b>	Date by DD/MM/YYYY
<b>Response Options:</b>	DD/MM/YYYY
<b>Variable ID:</b>	REOP
<b>Variable:</b>	Current procedure a reoperation at same level?
<b>Definition:</b>	Indicate if the current surgery is a reoperation at the same level because the prior surgery at the same level did not reach its technical or clinical goals
<b>Supporting Definition:</b>	N/A
<b>Inclusion Criteria:</b>	Surgically treated patients
<b>Timing:</b>	When occurs
<b>Data Source:</b>	Clinical
<b>Type:</b>	Single answer
<b>Response Options:</b>	0 = No 1 = Yes
<b>Variable ID:</b>	REOPREAS
<b>Variable:</b>	Type of reoperation (if applicable)
<b>Definition:</b>	Indicate the type of reoperation
<b>Supporting Definition:</b>	Hardware removal: removal of implants (For example, screws, rods) Non-union: failure of bony consolidation of bridge/union at minimum 12 months after surgery Neuro-compression: compression of neural structures with or without neurological deficits (select recurrent disc herniation or other neuro- compression) Post-op infection: superficial or deep (subfascial) wound/tissue infection after surgery Implant malposition: incorrect position of the implant Implant failure: problem due to an implant (For example, loosening, breakage) Wrong level: procedure mistakenly performed at wrong vertebral level Sagittal imbalance: sagittal malalignment of the spine (select lumbar flatback deformity or junctional kyphosis) Cerebrospinal fluid leakage: includes CSF fistula, pseudomeningocele, etc. Epidural hematoma: collection of blood adjacent to dura, potentially creating compression
<b>Inclusion Criteria:</b>	Surgically treated patients If answered 'yes' to having a reoperation (REOP)
<b>Timing:</b>	When occurs
<b>Data Source:</b>	Clinical
<b>Type:</b>	Single answer
<b>Response Options:</b>	1 = Hardware removal 2 = Non-union 3 = Neuro-compression 4 = Post-op infection 5 = Implant malposition 6 = Implant failure 7 = Wrong level 8 = Sagittal imbalance 9 = Cerebrospinal fluid leakage 10 = Epidural hematoma

## Patient-Reported Health Status

<b>Variable ID:</b>	WORK
<b>Variable:</b>	Work status
<b>Definition:</b>	What is your work status?
<b>Supporting Definition:</b>	N/A
<b>Inclusion Criteria:</b>	All patients



**Timing:** 3\*, 6 months  
1, 2, 5\* year after index event

**Data Source:** Patient-reported

**Type:** Single answer

**Response Options:** 0 = Unable to work due to a condition other than back or leg pain  
1 = Unable to work due to back or leg pain  
2 = Not working by choice (student, retired, homemaker)  
3 = Seeking employment (I consider myself able to work but cannot find a job)  
4 = Working part-time  
5 = Working full-time

**Variable ID:** WORKDUR

**Variable:** Time to return to work

**Definition:** How long after you received treatment for Low Back Pain did you return to work (where applicable)?

**Supporting Definition:** N/A

**Inclusion Criteria:** All patients  
If patient is working (WORK)

**Timing:** 3\*, 6 months  
1, 2, 5\* year after index event

**Data Source:** Patient-reported

**Type:** Single answer

**Response Options:** 1 = Less than 3 months  
2 = 3-6 months  
3 = 6-9 months  
4 = 9-12 months  
5 = 1-2 years  
6 = More than 2 years

**Variable ID:** WORKDEM

**Variable:** Work demands

**Definition:** Are you working at a physically less demanding job now because of your leg or back pain?

**Supporting Definition:** N/A

**Inclusion Criteria:** All patients  
If patient is working (WORK)

**Timing:** 3\*, 6 months  
1, 2, 5\* year after index event

**Data Source:** Patient-reported

**Type:** Single answer

**Response Options:** 0 = No  
1 = Yes

**Variable ID:** PAINMEDPR

**Variable:** Need for continuous analgesic use (non-narcotics)

**Definition:** Do you take non-narcotic pain relievers (For example NSAIDs, acetaminophen)?

**Supporting Definition:** N/A

**Inclusion Criteria:** All patients

**Timing:** 3\*, 6 months  
1, 2, 5\* year after index event

**Data Source:** Patient-reported

**Type:** Single answer

**Response Options:** 0 = No  
1 = Yes, regularly  
2 = Yes, sometimes

**Variable ID:** PAINMEDO

**Variable:** Need for continuous analgesic use (narcotics)

**Definition:** Do you take narcotics, also known as opioids (For example morphine, codeine, dextropropoxyphene)?

**Supporting Definition:** N/A  
**Inclusion Criteria:** All patients  
**Timing:** 3\*, 6 months  
 1, 2, 5\* year after index event  
**Data Source:** Patient-reported  
**Type:** Single answer  
**Response Options:** 0 = No  
 1 = Yes, regularly  
 2 = Yes, sometimes

**Variable ID:** ODI\_Q01  
**Variable:** Question 1 of ODI  
**Definition:** This questionnaire is designed to give us information as to how your back (or leg) trouble affects your ability to manage in everyday life. Please answer every section. Select only one option in each section that most closely describes you today.  
 Section 1 - Pain intensity

**Supporting Definition:** N/A  
**Inclusion Criteria:** All patients  
**Timing:** 3\*, 6 months  
 1, 2, 5\* year after index event  
**Data Source:** Patient-reported  
**Type:** Single answer  
**Response Options:** 1 = I have no pain at the moment  
 2 = The pain is very mild at the moment  
 3 = The pain is moderate at the moment  
 4 = The pain is fairly severe at the moment  
 5 = The pain is very severe at the moment  
 6 = The pain is the worst imaginable at the moment

**Variable ID:** ODI\_Q02  
**Variable:** Question 2 of ODI  
**Definition:** Section 2 - Personal care (washing, dressing, etc.)

**Supporting Definition:** N/A  
**Inclusion Criteria:** All patients  
**Timing:** 3\*, 6 months  
 1, 2, 5\* year after index event  
**Data Source:** Patient-reported  
**Type:** Single answer  
**Response Options:** 1 = I can look after myself normally without causing extra pain  
 2 = I can look after myself normally but it is very painful  
 3 = It is painful to look after myself and I am slow and careful  
 4 = I need some help but manage most of my personal care  
 5 = I need help every day in most aspects of self care  
 6 = I do not get dressed, wash with difficulty and stay in bed

**Variable ID:** ODI\_Q03  
**Variable:** Question 3 of ODI  
**Definition:** Section 3 - Lifting

**Supporting Definition:** N/A  
**Inclusion Criteria:** All patients  
**Timing:** 3\*, 6 months  
 1, 2, 5\* year after index event  
**Data Source:** Patient-reported  
**Type:** Single answer  
**Response Options:** 1 = I can lift heavy weights without extra pain  
 2 = I can lift heavy weights but it gives extra pain  
 3 = Pain prevents me from lifting heavy weights off the floor but I can manage if they are conveniently positioned, e.g. on a table

4 = Pain prevents me from lifting heavy weights but I can manage light to medium weights if they are conveniently positioned  
 5 = I can lift only very light weights  
 6 = I cannot lift or carry anything at all

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<b>Variable ID:</b>	ODI_Qo4
<b>Variable:</b>	Question 4 of ODI
<b>Definition:</b>	Section 4 - Walking
<b>Supporting Definition:</b>	N/A
<b>Inclusion Criteria:</b>	All patients
<b>Timing:</b>	3*, 6 months 1, 2, 5* year after index event
<b>Data Source:</b>	Patient-reported
<b>Type:</b>	Single answer
<b>Response Options:</b>	1 = Pain does not prevent me walking any distance 2 = Pain prevents me walking more than one mile 3 = Pain prevents me walking more than a quarter of a mile 4 = Pain prevents me walking more than 100 yards 5 = I can only walk using a stick or crutches 6 = I am in bed most of the time and have to crawl to the toilet

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<b>Variable ID:</b>	ODI_Qo5
<b>Variable:</b>	Question 5 of ODI
<b>Definition:</b>	Section 5 - Sitting
<b>Supporting Definition:</b>	N/A
<b>Inclusion Criteria:</b>	All patients
<b>Timing:</b>	3*, 6 months 1, 2, 5* year after index event
<b>Data Source:</b>	Patient-reported
<b>Type:</b>	Single answer
<b>Response Options:</b>	1 = I can sit in any chair as long as I like 2 = I can sit in my favorite chair as long as I like 3 = Pain prevents me from sitting for more than 1 hour 4 = Pain prevents me from sitting for more than half an hour 5 = Pain prevents me from sitting for more than 10 minutes 6 = Pain prevents me from sitting at all

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<b>Variable ID:</b>	ODI_Qo6
<b>Variable:</b>	Question 6 of ODI
<b>Definition:</b>	Section 6 - Standing
<b>Supporting Definition:</b>	N/A
<b>Inclusion Criteria:</b>	All patients
<b>Timing:</b>	3*, 6 months 1, 2, 5* year after index event
<b>Data Source:</b>	Patient-reported
<b>Type:</b>	Single answer
<b>Response Options:</b>	1 = I can stand as long as I want without extra pain 2 = I can stand as long as I want but it gives me extra pain 3 = Pain prevents me from standing for more than 1 hour 4 = Pain prevents me from standing for more than half an hour 5 = Pain prevents me from standing for more than 10 minutes 6 = Pain prevents me from standing at all

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<b>Variable ID:</b>	ODI_Qo7
<b>Variable:</b>	Question 7 of ODI
<b>Definition:</b>	Section 7 - Sleeping
<b>Supporting Definition:</b>	N/A
<b>Inclusion Criteria:</b>	All patients
<b>Timing:</b>	3*, 6 months 1, 2, 5* year after index event

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**Data Source:** Patient-reported  
**Type:** Single answer  
**Response Options:** 1 = My sleep is never disturbed by pain  
 2 = My sleep is occasionally disturbed by pain  
 3 = Because of pain I have less than 6 hours sleep  
 4 = Because of pain I have less than 4 hours sleep  
 5 = Because of pain I have less than 2 hours sleep  
 6 = Pain prevents me from sleeping at all

**Variable ID:** ODI\_Qo8  
**Variable:** Question 8 of ODI  
**Definition:** Section 8 - Sex life (if applicable)  
**Supporting Definition:** N/A  
**Inclusion Criteria:** All patients  
**Timing:** 3\*, 6 months  
 1, 2, 5\* year after index event

**Data Source:** Patient-reported  
**Type:** Single answer  
**Response Options:** 1 = My sex life is normal and causes no extra pain  
 2 = My sex life is normal but causes some extra pain  
 3 = My sex life is nearly normal but is very painful  
 4 = My sex life is severely restricted by pain  
 5 = My sex life is nearly absent because of pain  
 6 = Pain prevents any sex life at all

**Variable ID:** ODI\_Qo9  
**Variable:** Question 9 of ODI  
**Definition:** Section 9 - Social life  
**Supporting Definition:** N/A  
**Inclusion Criteria:** All patients  
**Timing:** 3\*, 6 months  
 1, 2, 5\* year after index event

**Data Source:** Patient-reported  
**Type:** Single answer  
**Response Options:** 1 = My social life is normal and causes me no extra pain  
 2 = My social life is normal but increases the degree of pain  
 3 = Pain has no significant effect on my social life apart from limiting my more energetic interests, e.g. sport, etc  
 4 = Pain has restricted my social life and I do not go out as often  
 5 = Pain has restricted social life to my home  
 6 = I have no social life because of pain

**Variable ID:** ODI\_Q10  
**Variable:** Question 10 of ODI  
**Definition:** Section 10 - Traveling  
**Supporting Definition:** N/A  
**Inclusion Criteria:** All patients  
**Timing:** 3\*, 6 months  
 1, 2, 5\* year after index event

**Data Source:** Patient-reported  
**Type:** Single answer  
**Response Options:** 1 = I can travel anywhere without pain  
 2 = I can travel anywhere but it gives extra pain  
 3 = Pain is bad but I manage journeys over two hours  
 4 = Pain restricts me to journeys of less than one hour  
 5 = Pain restricts me to short necessary journeys under 30 minutes  
 6 = Pain prevents me from travelling except to receive treatment

**Variable ID:** NPRS\_Qo1  
**Variable:** Question 1 of NPRS

<b>Definition:</b>	On a scale of 0 to 10, with 0 being no pain at all and 10 being the worst pain imaginable, please indicate your average back pain over the last 7 days
<b>Supporting Definition:</b>	N/A
<b>Inclusion Criteria:</b>	All patients
<b>Timing:</b>	3*, 6 months 1, 2, 5* year after index event
<b>Data Source:</b>	Patient-reported
<b>Type:</b>	Numerical value
<b>Response Options:</b>	Ordinal values from 0 to 10, with 'No pain' marked at '0' and 'Worst pain imaginable' marked at '10'
<b>Variable ID:</b>	NPRS_Q02
<b>Variable:</b>	Question 2 of NPRS
<b>Definition:</b>	On a scale of 0 to 10, with 0 being no pain at all and 10 being the worst pain imaginable, please indicate your average leg pain over the last 7 days
<b>Supporting Definition:</b>	N/A
<b>Inclusion Criteria:</b>	All patients
<b>Timing:</b>	3*, 6 months 1, 2, 5* year after index event
<b>Data Source:</b>	Patient-reported
<b>Type:</b>	Numerical value
<b>Response Options:</b>	Ordinal values from 0 to 10, with 'No pain' marked at '0' and 'Worst pain imaginable' marked at '10'
<b>Variable ID:</b>	EQ5D_Q01
<b>Variable:</b>	Question 1 of EQ5D
<b>Definition:</b>	By selection an option in each group below, please indicate which statements best describe your own health state today. Mobility
<b>Supporting Definition:</b>	N/A
<b>Inclusion Criteria:</b>	All patients
<b>Timing:</b>	3*, 6 months 1, 2, 5* year after index event
<b>Data Source:</b>	Patient-reported
<b>Type:</b>	Single answer
<b>Response Options:</b>	1 = I have no problems in walking about 2 = I have some problems in walking about 3 = I am confined to bed
<b>Variable ID:</b>	EQ5D_Q02
<b>Variable:</b>	Question 2 of EQ5D
<b>Definition:</b>	Self-care
<b>Supporting Definition:</b>	N/A
<b>Inclusion Criteria:</b>	All patients
<b>Timing:</b>	3*, 6 months 1, 2, 5* year after index event
<b>Data Source:</b>	Patient-reported
<b>Type:</b>	Single answer
<b>Response Options:</b>	1 = I have no problems with self-care 2 = I have some problems washing or dressing myself 3 = I am unable to wash or dress myself
<b>Variable ID:</b>	EQ5D_Q03
<b>Variable:</b>	Question 3 of EQ5D
<b>Definition:</b>	Usual activities (For example work, study, housework, family, or leisure activities)
<b>Supporting Definition:</b>	N/A
<b>Inclusion Criteria:</b>	All patients
<b>Timing:</b>	3*, 6 months 1, 2, 5* year after index event
<b>Data Source:</b>	Patient-reported

**Type:** Single answer  
**Response Options:** 1 = I have no problems with performing my usual activities  
 2 = I have some problems with performing my usual activities  
 3 = I am unable to perform my usual activities

**Variable ID:** EQ5D\_Q04  
**Variable:** Question 4 of EQ5D  
**Definition:** Pain/discomfort  
**Supporting Definition:** N/A  
**Inclusion Criteria:** All patients  
**Timing:** 3\*, 6 months  
 1, 2, 5\* year after index event  
**Data Source:** Patient-reported  
**Type:** Single answer  
**Response Options:** 1 = I have no pain or discomfort  
 2 = I have moderate pain or discomfort  
 3 = I have extreme pain or discomfort

**Variable ID:** EQ5D\_Q05  
**Variable:** Question 5 of EQ5D  
**Definition:** Anxiety/depression  
**Supporting Definition:** N/A  
**Inclusion Criteria:** All patients  
**Timing:** 3\*, 6 months  
 1, 2, 5\* year after index event  
**Data Source:** Patient-reported  
**Type:** Single answer  
**Response Options:** 1 = I am not anxious or depressed  
 2 = I am moderately anxious or depressed  
 3 = I am extremely anxious or depressed

**Variable ID:** EQ5D\_Q06  
**Variable:** Question 6 of EQ5D  
**Definition:** To help people say how good or bad a health state is, we have drawn a scale (rather like a thermometer) on which the best state you can imagine is marked 100 and the worst state you can imagine is marked 0.  
 We would like you to indicate on this scale how good or bad your own health is today, in your opinion. Please do this by drawing a line from the box below to whichever point on the scale indicates how good or bad your health state is today.  
**Supporting Definition:** N/A  
**Inclusion Criteria:** All patients  
**Timing:** 3\*, 6 months  
 1, 2, 5\* year after index event  
**Data Source:** Patient-reported  
**Type:** Visual scale  
**Response Options:** Refer to visual analogue scale in sample questionnaire

\* 3 month and 5 year time points are recommended but not essential

## ICHOM Contact Information

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# Reference Guide Revisions

Reference Guide Version	Location within Reference Guide	Content Change
2.1	Introduction to the Data Dictionary	Modifications to introductory paragraph
2.1	The Growing ICHOM Community	Removed map and updated information

