



MODIFIED OSWESTRY LOW BACK PAIN DISABILITY QUESTIONNAIRE¹

Name _____ Age _____ Date _____ Therapist _____
 Occupation _____ Number of days of pain _____ (this episode)

This questionnaire is designed to give your therapist information as to how your back pain has affected your ability to manage in every day life. Please answer every question by placing a mark on the line that best describes your condition today. We realize you may feel that two of the statements may describe your condition, but **please mark only the line, which most closely describes your current condition.**

Pain Intensity

- The pain is mild and comes and goes.
- The pain is mild and does not vary much.
- The pain is moderate and comes and goes.
- The pain is moderate and does not vary much.
- The pain is severe and comes and goes.
- The pain is severe and does not vary much.

Personal Care (Washing, Dressing, etc.)

- I do not have to change the way I wash and dress myself to avoid pain.
- I do not normally change the way I wash or dress myself even though it causes some pain.
- Washing and dressing increases my pain, but I can do it without changing my way of doing it.
- Washing and dressing increases my pain and I find it necessary to change the way I do it.
- Because of my pain I am partially unable to wash and dress without help.
- Because of my pain I am completely unable to wash or dress without help.

Lifting

- I can lift heavy weights without increased pain.
- I can lift heavy weights but it causes increased pain.
- Pain prevents me from lifting heavy weights off the floor, but I can manage if they are conveniently positioned (example – on a table, etc.)
- Pain prevents me from lifting heavy weights off the floor, but I can manage light to medium weights if they are conveniently positioned.
- I can lift only very light weights.
- I cannot lift or carry anything at all.

Walking

- I have no pain when walking.
- I have pain when walking, but I can still walk my required normal distances.
- Pain prevents me from walking long distances.
- Pain prevents me from walking intermediate distances.
- Pain prevents me from walking even short distances.
- Pain prevents me from walking at all.

¹ adapted from Hudson-Cook N, Tomes-Nicholson K, Breen A. A revised oswestry disability questionnaire. In: Roland M, Jenner J, eds. Back Pain: New Approaches to Rehabilitation and Education. New York: Manchester University Press; 1989. p. 187-204.

Sitting

- Sitting does not cause me any pain.
- I can sit only as long as I like providing that I have my choice of seating surfaces.
- Pain prevents me from sitting for more than 1 hour.
- Pain prevents me from sitting for more than ½ hour.
- Pain prevents me from sitting for more than 10 minutes.
- Pain prevents me from sitting at all.

Standing

- I can stand as long as I want without increased pain.
- I can stand as long as I want but my pain increases.
- Pain prevents me from standing for more than 1 hour.
- Pain prevents me from standing for more than ½ hour.
- Pain prevents me from standing for more than 10 minutes.
- I avoid standing because it increases my pain right away.

Sleeping

- I get no pain when I am in bed.
- I get pain in bed, but it does not prevent me from sleeping well.
- Because of my pain, my sleep is only ¾ of my normal amount.
- Because of my pain, my sleep is only ½ of my normal amount.
- Because of my pain, my sleep is only ¼ of my normal amount.
- Pain prevents me from sleeping at all.

Social Life

- My social life is normal and does not increase my pain.
- My social life is normal, but increases my level of pain.
- Pain prevents me from participating in more energetic activities (sports, dancing, etc.)
- Pain prevents me from going out very often.
- Pain has restricted my social life to my home.
- I have hardly any social life because of my pain.

Traveling

- I get no increased pain when traveling.
- I get some pain when traveling, but none of my usual forms of travel make it any worse.
- I get increased pain while traveling, but it does not cause me to seek alternative forms of travel.
- I get increase pain while traveling which causes me to seek alternative forms of travel.
- My pain restricts all forms of travel except that which is done while I am lying down.
- My pain restricts all forms of travel.

Employment/Homemaking

- My normal job/homemaking activities do not cause pain.
- My normal/job homemaking activities increase my pain, but I can still perform all that is required of me.
- I can perform most of my job/homemaking duties, but pain prevents me from performing more physically stressful activities (examples – lifting, vacuuming)
- Pain prevents me from doing anything but light duties.
- Pain prevents me from doing even light activities.
- Pain prevents me from performing any job or homemaking chores.

TO BE COMPLETED BY PHYSICAL THERAPIST/PROVIDER:

SCORE: /50 OR % INITIAL 6 VISITS DISCHARGE

Number of Treatment Sessions Gender: Male Female

Diagnosis/ICD-9 Code

¹ adapted from Hudson-Cook N, Tomes-NicholsonK, Breen A. A revised oswestry disability questionnaire. In: Roland M, Jenner J, eds. Back Pain: New Approaches to Rehabilitation and Education. New York: Manchester University Press; 1989. p. 187-204.