

## LOW BACK DISABILITY QUESTIONNAIRE (REVISED OSWESTRY)

Patient's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Number \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

This questionnaire has been designed to give the doctor information as to how your back pain has affected your ability to manage in everyday life. **Please answer every section and mark in each section only ONE box** which applies to you. We realize you may consider that two of the statements in any one section relate to you, but **please just mark the box which MOST CLOSELY describes your problem.**

### Section 1 - Pain Intensity

- I can tolerate the pain without having to use painkillers.
- The pain is bad but I can manage without taking painkillers.
- Painkillers give complete relief from pain.
- Painkillers give moderate relief from pain.
- Painkillers give very little relief from pain.
- Painkillers have no effect on the pain and I do not use them.

### Section 2 -- Personal Care (Washing, Dressing, etc.)

- I can look after myself normally without causing extra pain.
- I can look after myself normally but it causes extra pain.
- It is painful to look after myself and I am slow and careful.
- I need some help but manage most of my personal care.
- I need help every day in most aspects of self care.
- I do not get dressed, I wash with difficulty and stay in bed.

### Section 3 – Lifting

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

### Section 4 – Walking

- Pain does not prevent me from walking any distance.
- Pain prevents me from walking more than one mile.
- Pain prevents me from walking more than one-half mile.
- Pain prevents me from walking more than one-quarter mile
- I can only walk using a stick or crutches.
- I am in bed most of the time and have to crawl to the toilet.

### Section 5 -- Sitting

- I can sit in any chair as long as I like
- I can only sit in my favorite chair as long as I like
- Pain prevents me from sitting more than one hour.
- Pain prevents me from sitting more than 30 minutes.
- Pain prevents me from sitting more than 10 minutes.
- Pain prevents me from sitting almost all the time.

### Section 6 – Standing

- I can stand as long as I want without extra pain.
- I can stand as long as I want but it gives extra pain.
- Pain prevents me from standing more than 1 hour.
- Pain prevents me from standing more than 30 minutes.
- Pain prevents me from standing more than 10 minutes.
- Pain prevents me from standing at all.

### Section 7 -- Sleeping

- Pain does not prevent me from sleeping well.
- I can sleep well only by using tablets.
- Even when I take tablets I have less than 6 hours sleep.
- Even when I take tablets I have less than 4 hours sleep.
- Even when I take tablets I have less than 2 hours sleep.
- Pain prevents me from sleeping at all.

### Section 8 – Social Life

- My social life is normal and gives me no extra pain.
- My social life is normal but increases the degree of pain.
- Pain has no significant effect on my social life apart from limiting my more energetic interests, e.g. dancing.
- Pain has restricted my social life and I do not go out as often.
- Pain has restricted my social life to my home.
- I have no social life because of pain.

### Section 9 – Traveling

- I can travel anywhere without extra pain.
- I can travel anywhere but it gives me extra pain.
- Pain is bad but I manage journeys over 2 hours.
- Pain is bad but I manage journeys less than 1 hour.
- Pain restricts me to short necessary journeys under 30 minutes.
- Pain prevents me from traveling except to the doctor or hospital.

### Section 10 – Changing Degree of Pain

- My pain is rapidly getting better.
- My pain fluctuates but overall is definitely getting better.
- My pain seems to be getting better but improvement is slow at the present.
- My pain is neither getting better nor worse.
- My pain is gradually worsening.
- My pain is rapidly worsening.

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

Scoring: Questions are scored on a vertical scale of 0-5. Total scores and multiply by 2. Divide by number of sections answered multiplied by 10. A score of 22% or more is considered significant activities of daily living disability.  
 (Score \_\_\_ x 2) / ( \_\_\_ Sections x 10) = \_\_\_\_\_ %ADL

Reference: Fairbank, Physiotherapy 1981; 66(8): 271-3, Hudson-Cook. In Roland, Jenner (eds.), Back Pain New Approaches To Rehabilitation & Education. Manchester Univ Press, Manchester 1989: 187-204