Ontario
South West Local Health Integration Network

Choosing Wisely Canada

MRI SPINE APPROPRIATENESS CHECKLIST

*This checklist is based on the **Choosing Wisely** criteria and the **CORE Back Tool**. It is required for all adult (18+) outpatient MRI spine referrals. **Please include with MRI requisition**.*

Patient label placed here, or minimum information below required

Patient Name: _____
Date (YYYY-MM-DD): _____
Date of Birth (YYYY-MM-DD): _____
Gender: _____
Health Card #: _____

Referring Physician Name: _____

A. Red Flags requiring Emergent Management (immediate MRI and consultation to Surgery)
(consider sending patient to Emergency Department)

- ☐ Severe/Progressive Neurologic Deficit
- ☐ Cord Compression or Cauda Equina Syndrome

B. Red Flags requiring Urgent MRI

- ☐ Suspected Cancer
- ☐ Suspected Spinal Infection
- ☐ Suspected Epidural Abscess or Hematoma
- ☐ Suspected Fracture *(recommend X-ray or CT first)*

C. Mechanical Spine Pain Syndrome with no Red Flags requiring Non-Urgent MRI
(Check all that apply – there MUST be a check in sections 1, 2, and 3 below to meet imaging criteria)

1.
- ☐ Unbearable Arm or Leg Dominant Pain *(and/or)*
- ☐ Disabling Neurogenic Claudication *(and/or)*
- ☐ Functionally Significant Neurologic Deficit

2. ☐ Failure to Respond after 6 weeks of conservative care

3. ☐ Considering Surgery

D. Suspected or Known Conditions *(Check all that apply)*

- ☐ Cancer *(please specify)*
- ☐ Intradural Tumour
- ☐ Bone Tumour or Metastases
- ☐ Congenital Spine Anomaly
- ☐ Scoliosis
- ☐ Spinal Radiation
- ☐ Demyelination or MS
- ☐ Inflammatory Disease
- ☐ Assessment for Vertebroplasty
- ☐ Prior Spine Surgery *(date)*
- ☐ Arachnoiditis
- ☐ Post-operative Collections
- ☐ Follow-up for a Known Condition *(please specify)*
- ☐ Condition Not Listed *(please specify)*

Prior CT or MRI Spine Imaging (Select one)

☐ CT ☐ MRI
When: _____ Where: _____

Additional Clinical Information

Please provide any additional information below. Please also clearly indicate the affected area on the image to the right.