



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 Name: Date (YYYY-MM-DD): _ Date of Birth (YYYY-MM-DD): ___ Gender: _

Patient label placed here, or minimum information below required

		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		$\ \square$ Cord Compression or Cauda Equina Syndrome	
B. Red Flags requiring Urgent MRI			
☐ Suspected Cancer	\square Suspected Spinal Infection		\square 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 (and/or) or Leg Dominant Pain	☐ Disabling Neurogenic	C (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
\square Congenital Spine Anomaly	☐ Scoliosis		\square Spinal Radiation
☐ Demyelination or MS	☐ Inflammatory Disease		\square Assessment for Vertebroplasty
☐ Prior Spine Surgery <i>(date)</i>	☐ Arachnoiditis		\square 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.

