

## OSWESTRY INDEX QUESTIONNAIRE

This questionnaire is designed to help us better understand how your back pain affects your ability to manage everyday -life activities. Please mark in each section the **one box** that applies to you.

Although you may consider that two of the statements in any one section relate to you, please mark the box that **most closely** describes your present -day situation.

### SECTION 1 - PAIN INTENSITY

- My pain is mild to moderate. I do not need pain killers.
- The pain is bad, but I manage without taking pain killers.
- Pain killers give complete relief from pain.
- Pain killers give moderate relief from pain.
- Pain killers give very little relief from pain.
- Pain killers have no effect on the pain.

### SECTION 2 - PERSONAL CARE

- 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 causing extra pain.
- I can lift heavy weights, but it gives me extra pain.
- Pain prevents me from lifting heavy weights off the floor, but I can manage if items are conveniently positioned, ie. on a table.
- Pain prevents me from lifting heavy weights, but I can manage light weights if they are conveniently positioned.
- I can lift only very light weights.
- I cannot lift or carry anything at all.

### SECTION 4 – WALKING

- I can walk as far as I wish.
- Pain prevents me from walking more than 1 mile.
- Pain prevents me from walking more than 1/2 mile.
- Pain prevents me from walking more than 1/4 mile.
- I can walk only if I use a cane or crutches.
- I am in bed or in a chair for most of every day.

### SECTION 5 – SITTING

- I can sit in any chair for as long as I like.
- I can sit in my favorite chair only, but for as long as I like.
- Pain prevents me from sitting for more than 1 hour.
- Pain prevents me from sitting for more than 1/2 hour.
- Pain prevents me from sitting for more than 10 minutes.
- Pain prevents me from sitting at all.

### 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 me extra pain.
- Pain prevents me from standing for more than 1 hour.
- Pain prevents me from standing more than 1/2 hour.
- 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 sleep well but only when taking medication.
- Even when I take medication, I sleep less than 6 hours.
- Even when I take medication, I sleep less than 4 hours.
- Even when I take medication, I sleep less than 2 hours.
- Pain prevents me from sleeping at all.

### SECTION 8 - SOCIAL LIFE

- Social life is normal and causes me no extra pain.
- Social life is normal, but increases the degree of pain.
- Pain affects my social life by limiting only my more energetic interests, such as dancing, sports, etc.
- 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 - SEXUAL ACTIVITY

- Sexual activity is normal and causes no extra pain.
- Sexual activity is normal, but causes some extra pain.
- Sexual activity is nearly normal, but is very painful.
- Sexual activity is severely restricted by pain.
- Sexual activity is nearly absent because of pain.
- Pain prevents any sexual activity at all.

### SECTION 10 – 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 restricts me to journeys of less than 1 hour.
- Pain restricts me to necessary journeys under ½ hr.
- Pain prevents traveling except to the doctor/hospital.

PATIENT NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

SCORE \_\_\_\_\_ [50]

BENCHMARK -5 = \_\_\_\_\_