

# SCOPE STATEMENT FOR HERC COVERAGE GUIDANCE

## LUMBAR DISCOGRAPHY

<b>Population description</b>	<p>Adults with uncomplicated chronic lumbar back pain with or without prior back surgery</p> <p><i>Population scoping notes: Most studies exclude patients with signs of nerve root impingement, spinal stenosis, spinal instability, objective motor deficits, fractures, infectious dicitis, ankylosing spondylitis, low back pain due to malignancy, scoliosis, and kyphosis</i></p>
<b>Intervention(s)</b>	<p>Lumbar discography with or without provocative testing</p> <p><i>Intervention exclusions: None</i></p>
<b>Comparator(s)</b>	<p>Usual care, other tests to diagnose discogenic causes of back pain or predict response to lumbar surgery (e.g. lumbar x-rays, lumbar computerized tomography, lumbar magnetic resonance imaging, myelography, facet joint blocks, orthotic immobilization, external fixation)</p>
<b>Outcome(s) (up to five)</b>	<p>Critical: Short-term function, long-term function, prognostic accuracy for surgical outcomes, change in utilization of surgery</p> <p>Important: Harms</p> <p><i>Considered but not selected for GRADE Table:</i></p>
<b>Key questions</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is the comparative effectiveness of lumbar discography for the diagnosis and treatment planning of lumbar back pain?</li> <li>2. Does the comparative effectiveness of lumbar discography vary by:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Pretest probability of discogenic lumbar back pain</li> <li>b. Use of provocative testing</li> <li>c. Response to non-invasive or minimally-invasive treatments</li> <li>d. Previous back surgery</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. What are the harms of lumbar discography?</li> </ol>
<b>Contextual questions</b>	

## CHANGE LOG

Date	Change	Rationale