

Appendix 2 (as supplied by the authors): Prognostic factors for which univariate analyses were reported in the included cohorts and the strength of prognostic association where available

Author	Factor	Strength of association	Explanation of strength of association
Bakker ¹	24 HS sum scores	OR=1.07 (0.99 to 1.15)	Odds ratios >1.0 associated with "persistent LBP"
	Gender (authors did not specified which gender)	OR=1.61 (0.68 to 3.82)	
	Older age	OR=0.97 (0.94 to 1.00)	
	Previous episode(s) of LBP	OR=1.37 (0.55 to 3.37)	
	Smoking	OR=3.71 (1.32 to 10.41)	
	Nottingham Health Profile scores	OR=1.06 (0.87 to 1.29)	
	Acute LBP Screening Questionnaire scores	OR=0.99 (0.97 to 1.01)	
	(un-) employed	OR=2.04 (0.51 to 8.21)	
	Job satisfaction	OR=0.89 (0.75 to 1.08)	
	Pain intensity at consultation	OR=0.97 (0.80 to 1.18)	
	Duration of symptoms	OR=0.99 (0.94 to 1.06)	
	Radiating leg pain	OR=0.96 (0.84 to 1.09)	
	Restricted spinal movement	OR=0.89 (0.72 to 1.09)	
	Physical therapy	OR=2.04 (0.65 to 6.37)	
Bousema ²	-	-	Reported multivariate analysis only
Breen ³	-	-	Reported multivariate analysis only
¹ Carey ⁴	-	-	Reported multivariate analysis only
¹ Sundararajan ⁵	-	-	Reported multivariate analysis only
Carey ⁶	-	-	Reported multivariate analysis only
Costa ⁷	<i>Socio-demographic characteristics:</i>		Hazard ratio >1 associated with faster recovery from chronic low back pain
	Age (years)	HR=0.99 (0.98 to 1.00) p= 0.20	
	Gender (male)	HR= 0.92 (0.68 to 1.25) p=0.61	
	Born overseas	HR= 0.88 (0.63 to 1.23) p= 0.46	
	Lower half socio-economic index	HR= 0.75 (0.53 to 1.06) p=0.11	
	No education beyond secondary	HR= 0.65 (0.48 to 0.88) p=0.006	
	Current smoker	HR= 0.74 (0.72 to 1.03) p=0.10	
	Exercising regularly	HR= 0.92 (0.68 to 1.26) p=0.61	
	<i>General health:</i>		
	Self-rated general health	HR= 0.86 (0.72 to 1.03) p=0.10	
	<i>Current and previous LBP history:</i>		
	Sudden onset of LBP	HR= 1.04 (0.71 to 1.53) p=0.85	
	Compensable LBP	HR= 0.60 (0.41 to 0.88) p=0.01	
	Taking medication for LBP	HR= 0.67 (0.49 to 0.92) p=0.01	
	Presence of leg pain	HR= 0.91 (0.64 to 1.30) p=0.61	
	Number of pain sites	HR= 1.01 (0.87 to 1.18) p=0.87	
	Pain intensity at first visit	HR= 0.85 (0.70 to 1.04) p=0.11	
	Disability at first visit	HR= 0.89 (0.78 to 1.02) p=0.09	
	Pain intensity at 3 months	HR= 0.68 (0.59 to 0.79) p< 0.0001	
	Disability at 3 months	HR= 0.63 (0.53 to 0.75) p< 0.0001	
	Days forced to cut down on usual activities due to LBP	HR= 0.97 (0.92 to 1.03) p=0.30	
	Duration LBP prior to consultation	HR= 0.98 (0.93 to 1.03) p=0.40	
	Working pre-injury	HR= 1.09 (0.74 to 1.61) p=0.67	
	Changed work status due to LBP	HR= 0.78 (0.56 to 1.09) p=0.15	
	Previous episode of LBP	HR= 0.97 (0.68 to 1.40) p=0.88	
	Previous sick leave due to LBP	HR= 0.63 (0.45 to 0.87) p=0.005	
	Previous surgery for LBP	HR= 0.65 (0.24 to 1.75) p=0.39	
	<i>Psychological characteristics:</i>		

If you had to spend the rest of your life with the symptoms you have right now, how would you feel about it?	HR= 0.92 (0.74 to 1.15) p=0.48	
Based on all things you do to cope, or deal with your pain, on an average day, how much are you able to decrease it?	HR= 1.00 (0.94 to 1.07) p=0.99	
How tense or anxious have you felt in the past 7 days?	HR= 0.93 (0.88 to 0.99) p=0.01	
How much have you been bothered by feeling depressed in the past 7 days?	HR= 0.92 (0.87 to 0.96) p=0.0004	
In your view, how large is the risk that your current pain may become persistent?	HR= 0.88 (0.84 to 0.93) p< 0.0001	
<i>Red flags:</i>		
Insidious onset	HR= 1.01 (0.66 to 1.55) p=0.96	
Systemically unwell	HR= 1.93 (0.91 to 4.12) p=0.08	
Significant trauma (major in young, minor in elderly)	HR= 1.30 (0.61 to 2.78) p=0.49	
Morning back stiffness \geq .5 hours	HR= 0.66 (0.45 to 0.97) p=0.03	
Persisting limitation spinal movements in all directions	HR= 0.72 (0.43 to 1.23) p=0.23	
Pain improves with exercises	HR= 0.84 (0.61 to 1.15) p=0.28	
Number of positive red flags	HR= 0.95 (0.87 to 1.05) p=0.30	
<i>Socio-demographic characteristics:</i>		Univariate (hazard ratio) relationships between prognostic markers and time to recovery from chronic low back pain related disability
Age (years)	HR= 1.00 (0.99 to 1.01) p=0.95	
Gender (male)	HR= 0.91 (0.64 to 1.30) p=0.61	
Born overseas	HR= 0.58 (0.38 to 0.89) p=0.01	
Lower half socio-economic index	HR= 0.78 (0.53 to 1.15) p=0.21	
No education beyond secondary	HR=0.72 (0.50 to 1.03) p=0.07	
Current smoker	HR=0.64 (0.39 to 1.04) p=0.07	
Exercising regularly	HR=0.95 (0.66 to 1.37) p=0.78	
<i>General health:</i>		
Low self-rated general health	HR=0.68 (0.33 to 1.40) p=0.29	
<i>Current and previous LBP history:</i>		
Sudden onset of LBP	HR=0.81 (0.53 to 1.25) p=0.34	
Compensable LBP	HR=0.56 (0.37 to 0.87) p=0.009	
Taking medication for LBP	HR=0.71 (0.50 to 1.03) p=0.07	
Presence of leg pain	HR=0.76 (0.50 to 1.14) p=0.18	
Number of pain sites	HR=0.91 (0.76 to 1.10) p=0.34	
Pain intensity at first visit	HR=0.78 (0.63to 0.98) p=0.04	
Disability at first visit	HR=0.89 (0.76 to 1.04) p=0.13	
Pain intensity at 3 months	HR=0.77 (0.65 to 0.91) p=0.002	
Disability at 3 months	HR=0.67 (0.55 to 0.82) p=0.0001	
Days forced to cut down on usual activities due to LBP	HR=1.00 (0.95 to 1.07) p=0.80	
Duration LBP prior to consultation	HR=1.02 (0.97 to 1.08) p=0.38	
Working pre-injury	HR=0.96 (0.63 to 1.5) p=0.86	
Changed work status due to LBP	HR=0.90 (0.62 to 1.31) p=0.58	
Previous episode of LBP	HR=0.97 (0.64 to 1.47) p=0.90	
Previous sick leave due to LBP	HR=0.70 (0.48 to 1.02) p=0.06	
Previous surgery for LBP	HR=0.59 (0.19 to 1.90) p=0.36	

<i>Psychological characteristics</i>		
If you had to spend the rest of your life with the symptoms you have right now, how would you feel about it?	HR=0.94 (0.74 to 1.20) p=0.62	
Based on all things you do to cope, or deal with your pain, on an average day, how much are you able to decrease it?	HR=0.94 (0.87 to 1.01) p=0.09	
How tense or anxious have you felt in the past 7 days?	HR=0.94 (0.87 to 1.01) p=0.08	
How much have you been bothered by feeling depressed in the past 7 days?	HR=0.92 (0.87 to 0.98) p=0.007	
In your view, how large is the risk that your current pain may become persistent?	HR=0.88 (0.82 to 0.94) p<0.0001	
<i>Red flags:</i>		
Insidious onset	HR=1.41 (0.89 to 2.23) p=0.15	
Systemically unwell	HR=1.5 (0.54 to 3.97) p=0.45	
Significant trauma (major in young, minor in elderly)	HR=1.76 (0.82 to 3.77) p=0.15	
Morning back stiffness \geq 5 hours	HR=1.05 (0.71 to 1.60) p=0.80	
Persisting limitation spinal movements in all directions	HR=0.66 (0.35 to 1.23) p=0.19	
Pain improves with exercises	HR=1.04 (0.72 to 1.51) p=0.84	
Number of positive red flags	HR=0.99 (0.89 to 1.10) p=0.87	
Coste ⁸		Log rank test (p values only).
Age	P=0.45	
Male sex	P=0.84	
French nationality	P=0.06	
Manual worker	P=0.49	
Employed at entry	P=0.65	
Previous acute episodes	P=0.48	
Previous chronic episode of LBP	P<0.0001	
Duration of index episode	P=0.87	
Sudden onset	P=0.42	
Pain intensity at entry	P=0.26	
Constant pain at night	P=0.33	
Pain aggravated by impulsion	P=0.02	
Pain aggravated by moving back	P=0.10	
Pain worse at standing	P=0.006	
Pain worse on lying	P=0.03	
Disability status at entry	P=0.03	
Limited passive movements	P=0.50	
Catch	P=0.35	
Straight leg raising<75 ⁰	P=0.30	
DSM-III-R diagnosis	P=0.65	
Compensation status	P=0.05	
Job difficulty	P=0.48	
Job satisfaction	P=0.007	
		P values from log rank test of prognostic factors for attendance at work among employed participants
Age	P=0.20	
Male sex	P=0.08	
French nationality	P=0.01	
Manual worker	P=0.09	

	Previous acute episodes	P=0.40	
	Previous chronic episode of LBP	P=0.01	
	Duration of index episode	P=0.79	
	Sudden onset	P=0.56	
	Pain intensity at entry	P=0.11	
	Constant pain at night	P=0.93	
	Pain aggravated by impulsion	P=0.01	
	Pain aggravated by moving back	P=0.01	
	Pain worse at standing	P=0.007	
	Pain worse on lying	P=0.01	
	Disability status at entry	P=0.09	
	Limited passive movements	P=0.55	
	Catch	P=0.03	
	Straight leg raising<75 ⁰	P=0.19	
	DSM-III-R diagnosis	P=0.65	
	Compensation status	P=0.06	
	Job difficulty	P=0.40	
	Job satisfaction	P=0.07	
Coste ⁹	Age	HR= 0.99 (0.98 to 1.01) p=0.46	Hazard ratio greater than 1.0 associated with recovery by 3 months
	Male sex	HR= 0.94 (0.63 to 1.38) p=0.76	
	French origin	HR= 0.92 (0.40 to 2.10) p=0.85	
	Manual work	HR= 0.97 (0.63 to 1.49) p=0.89	
	Employment at entry	HR= 0.95 (0.58 to 1.58) p=0.85	
	Previous acute episodes	HR= 0.84 (0.55 to 1.58) p=0.37	
	Previous chronic LBP episodes	HR= 0.40 (0.12 to 1.28) p=0.12	
	Prior back surgery	HR= 0.82 (0.65 to 1.05) p=0.10	
	Pain intensity at entry	HR= 0.99 (0.98to 1.01) p=0.31	
	Permanent pain at night	HR= 1.16(0.70 to 1.90) p=0.57	
	Pain increased by coughing	HR= 0.63(0.42 to 0.95) p=0.03	
	Pain increased by back movements	HR= 0.81(0.41 to 1.58) p=0.09	
	Pain worse when standing	HR= 0.76(0.50 to 1.15) p=0.19	
	Pain worse when lying down	HR= 0.66(0.44 to 1.00) p=0.05	
	Disability questionnaire	HR= 0.96(0.93 to 0.99) p=0.02	
	Pain on passive movements	HR= 0.72(0.29 to 1.79) p=0.48	
	Catch	HR= 1.04(0.71 to 1.54) p=0.83	
	Temporary compensation status	HR= 0.51(0.28 to 0.97) p=0.04	
	Job difficulty	HR= 0.93(0.58 to 1.50) p=0.76	
	Job dissatisfaction	HR= 1.00(0.68 to 1.49) p=0.98	
	Psychiatric disorder	HR= 0.98(0.43 to 2.24) p=0.96	
	Other comorbidity	HR= 0.72(0.47 to 1.11) p=0.13	
	Self referred to a general practitioner	HR= 1.10(0.57 to 2.13) p=0.78	
	Prescription of sick leave	HR= 0.81(0.54 to 1.22) p=0.32	
	Prescription of bed rest	HR= 0.91 (0.57 to 1.42) p=0.69	
	SF-36 physical function	HR= 0.95 (0.90 to 1.02) p=0.15	
	SF-36 role limitations-physical problems	HR= 0.96 (0.92 to 1.01) p=0.09	
	SF-36 bodily pain	HR= 0.93 (0.87 to 1.00) p=0.04	
	SF-36 general health	HR= 0.85 (0.77 to 0.94) p=0.001	
	SF-36 vitality	HR= 0.93 (0.85 to 1.01) p=0.09	
	SF-36 social functioning	HR= 0.95 (0.88 to 1.03) p=0.18	
	SF-36 role limitations-emotional problems	HR= 0.98 (0.93 to 1.03) p=0.33	
	SF-36 mental health	HR= 0.92 (0.83 to 1.01) p=0.07	
² Epping Jordan ¹⁰			Reported multivariate analysis only
² Williams ¹¹			Reported multivariate analysis only
² Wahlgren ¹²			No info about prognostic factors

² Shaw ¹³			Reported multivariate analysis only	
Faber ¹⁴	Male gender	HR=1.64 p=0.06	HR > 1 associated with a quicker return to work	
	Age	HR=0.99 p=0.91		
	Sickness absence before inclusion	HR=0.93 p=0.13		
	Recurrent LBP	HR=1.45 p=0.10		
	Functional limitations	HR=0.92 p=0.00		
	Quality of life	HR=1.19 p=0.00		
	Sporting during last year	HR=1.54 p=0.06		
	High job demands	HR=0.99 p=0.07		
	High job control	HR=0.99 p=0.08		
	Pain last week	HR=0.95 p=0.43		
	Fear of movement	HR=0.98 p=0.12		
	BMI equal or higher than 30	HR=0.75 p=0.31		
	Other complaints	HR=0.96 p=0.83		
³ Ferguson ¹⁵			Reported multivariate analysis only	
³ Ferguson ¹⁶			No reporting on prognostic factors	
⁴ Gatchel ¹⁷			Reported multivariate analysis only	
⁴ Gatchel ¹⁸			Reported multivariate analysis only	
⁵ Grotle ¹⁹			Odds ratios >1.0 associated with non-recovery after 3 months	
	Age over 45 yr	OR=2.64 (1.08 to 6.46)		
	Female gender	OR=1.99 (0.82 to 4.84)		
	Education higher than 12 yr	OR=0.59 (0.25 to 1.38)		
	Smoker	OR=2.29 (0.98 to 5.37)		
	Financial compensation	OR=3.13 (0.96 to 10.23)		
	1-3 days of work loss last month	OR=0.71 (0.23 to 2.2)		
	More than 4 days work loss last month	OR=4.64 (1.54 to 13.96)		
	Not satisfied at work	OR=0.55 (0.19 to 1.63)		
	Recruited by a chiropractor	OR=0.67 (0.21 to 2.12)		
	Recruited by advertisement	OR=2.00 (0.76 to 5.24)		
	Previous low back pain	OR=0.90 (0.39 to 2.11)		
	Radiating pain	OR=2.27 (0.97 to 5.31)		
	4-12 days episode duration	OR=1.29 (0.43 to 3.85)		
	13-20 days episode duration	OR=2.75 (0.95 to 7.93)		
	More than 2 positive neurological signs	OR=3.67 (1.41 to 9.51)		
	Finger-floor distance of 25 cm or more	OR=0.50 (0.16 to 1.62)		
	Medium-risk measured by the acute low back pain screening questionnaire (more than 90 points)	OR= 4.66 (1.9 to 11.46)		
	High fear avoidance (physical activity)	OR=1.26 (0.49 to 3.29)		
	High fear avoidance (work)	OR=1.36 (0.49 to 3.78)		
	High level of somatic awareness	OR=4.06 (1.65 to 9.98)		
	High level of distress	OR=4.56 (1.81 to 11.46)		
⁵ Grotle ²⁰				Odds ratios >1.0 associated with non-recovery after 12 months
	Age over 45 yr	OR=2.39 (0.85 to 6.72)		
	Female gender	OR=1.85 (0.65 to 5.31)		
	Education higher than 12 yr	OR=0.65 (0.24 to 1.77)		
	Smoker	OR=1.74 (0.64 to 4.73)		
	Use of pain medication	OR=2.89 (0.78 to 10.68)		
	Use of sleeping/relaxation medication	OR=2.12 (0.65 to 6.87)		

	1-3 disability days last month	OR=1.04 (0.29 to 3.70)	
	More than 4 disability days last month	OR=4.15 (1.19 to 14.48)	
	Not satisfied at work	OR=1.53 (0.50 to 4.66)	
	Recruited by a chiropractor	OR=0.96 (0.26 to 3.52)	
	Recruited by advertisement	OR=1.60 (0.52 to 4.97)	
	Previous low back pain	OR=0.88 (0.32 to 2.39)	
	Radiating pain	OR=1.38 (0.51 to 3.71)	
	More than 2 positive neurological signs	OR=1.81 (0.57 to 5.78)	
	Finger-floor distance of 17 cm or more	OR=0.85 (0.27 to 2.66)	
	High-risk measured by the acute low back pain screening questionnaire (more than 112 points)	OR= 6.54 (1.83 to 23.36)	
	High fear avoidance (physical activity)	OR=1.25 (0.40 to 3.95)	
	High fear avoidance (work)	OR=1.53 (0.47 to 5.00)	
	High level of distress	OR=3.94 (1.41 to 12.50)	
Gurcay ²¹			Reported multivariate analysis only
Hasenbring ²²			Reported multivariate analysis only
⁶ Hazard ²³			No information about prognostic factors
⁶ Reid ²⁴			No information about prognostic factors
Heneweer ²⁵			Reported multivariate analysis only
Henschke ²⁶	Sudden onset of low back pain	HR=1.10 (0.91 to 1.35) p=0.313	Hazard ratios<1.0 associated with longer time to recovery
	Compensable low back pain (e.g. workers compensation, third party)	HR=0.56 (0.45 to 0.69) p<0.001	
	Currently taking medication for low back pain	HR=0.75 (0.65 to 0.88) p<0.001	
	How many days did back or leg pain force you to cut down on the things you usually do, for more than half a day?	HR=0.96 (0.93 to 0.99) p=0.005	
	Presence of leg pain	HR=0.71 (0.59 to 0.86) p=0.001	
	Number of pain sites*	HR=0.83 (0.75 to 0.91) p<0.001	
	Duration of low back pain prior to consultation	HR=0.97 (0.95 to 0.99) p=0.030	
	Previous episode of low back pain	HR=0.89 (0.75 to 1.05) p=0.168	
	Previous sick leave due to low back pain	HR=0.88 (0.76 to 1.03) p=0.115	
	Previous surgery for low back pain	HR=0.69 (0.41 to 1.15) p=0.155	
	Insidious onset	HR=1.07 (0.88 to 1.31) p=0.489	
	Significant trauma (major in young, minor in elderly)	HR=0.97 (0.64 to 1.48) p=0.903	
	Morning back stiffness, 0.5 hours or more	HR=0.82 (0.69 to 0.99) p=0.034	
	Persisting limitation spinal movements in all directions	HR=0.64 (0.48 to 0.87) p=0.004	
	Pain improves with exercise	HR=0.92 (0.78 to 1.07) p=0.270	
	Number of positive red flags†	HR=0.95 (0.91 to 1.00) p=0.048	
	Lower half socio-economic index‡	HR=0.88 (0.74 to 1.04) p=0.119	
	Highest level of education is above trade certificate§	HR=1.16 (1.00 to 1.35) p=0.054	
	Born in Australia	HR=1.11 (0.94 to 1.31) p=0.242	
	Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander	HR=0.44 (0.14 to 1.37) p=0.156	

	Current smoker	HR=0.82 (0.67 to 1.00) p=0.049	
	Exercising for at least 30 minutes 3 times per week (includes walking briskly, cycling, digging, scrubbing floor on hands and knees etc.)	HR=1.02 (0.87 to 1.18) p=0.833	
	Poor/fair self-rated general health¶	HR=0.66 (0.47 to 0.92) p=0.013	
	Systemically unwell	HR=0.93 (0.56 to 1.56) p=0.782	
	If you had to spend the rest of your life with the symptoms you have right now, how would you feel about it?	HR=1.04 (0.94 to 1.14) p=0.470	
	Based on all the things you do to cope, or deal with your pain, on an average day, how much are you able to decrease it?	HR=1.04 (1.01 to 1.07) p=0.010	
	How tense or anxious have you felt in the past week?	HR=0.94 (0.91 to 0.96) p<0.001	
	How much have you been bothered by feeling depressed in the past week?	HR=0.91 (0.89 to 0.93) p<0.001	
	In your view, how large is the risk that your current pain may become persistent?	HR=0.89 (0.87 to 0.92) p<0.001	
	Working pre-injury	HR=1.01 (0.84 to 1.22) p=0.910	
	Changed work status post-injury	HR=0.75 (0.64 to 0.89) p=0.001	
Klenerman ²⁷			Reported multivariate analysis only
Koleck ²⁸			Reported multivariate analysis only
Kovacs ²⁹			Reported multivariate analysis only
Lehmann ³⁰			Reported only correlation analysis
Melloh ³¹			Reported multivariate analysis only
Poiraudau ³²			A statistically significant finding means that patients with chronic pain were more likely to have these characteristics compared to patients that recovered from pain
	Female gender	P=0.003	
	Work-related back pain	P=0.003	
	Participated in few sporting activities	P=0.0015	
	Had high pain	P=0.0013	
	Had high handicap	P=0.0066	
	High FABQ physical scores	P=0.0052	
	High FABQ work scores	P=0.0001	
	High Quebec scores	P=0.0007	
	High HAD Anxiety scores	P=0.0001	
	High HAD Depression scores	P=0.0001	
Reeser ³³			No information about prognostic factors
Schiottz-Christensen ³⁴	Demographic		Odds ratio>1 is associated with poor outcome.
	Age (greater than 40 years)	OR= 0.84 (0.5 to 1.3)	
	Sex (men)	OR= 0.85 (0.5 to 1.3)	
	Married (yes)	OR= 0.65 (0.4 to 1.1)	
	Employed (yes)	OR= 0.57 (0.2 to 1.1)	
	BMI (greater 25)	OR= 0.6 (0.7 to 1.0)	
	Medical history		
	Consultation due to LBP:		
	Never	OR= 1.33 (0.6 to 1.7)	

A few	OR= 1.03 (0.8 to 2.3)	
Many	OR= 1.00	
Previous:		
Sick leave due to LBP	OR= 2.00 (1.3 to 3.1)	
Hospitalization due to LBP	OR= 1.3 (0.5 to 3.5)	
Lumbar X-ray	OR= 1.36 (0.9 to 2.2)	
Manual therapy	OR= 0.94 (0.6 to 1.5)	
Chiropractic therapy	OR= 1.02 (0.7 to 2.1)	
Physical therapy	OR= 1.6 (1.0 to 2.5)	
History concerning the index episode:		
Duration of acute LBP (greater than 4 days)	OR= 1.2 (0.8 to 1.9)	
Sick leave	OR= 1.7 (1.1 to 2.6)	
Disabled	OR= 2.62 (1.6 to 4.3)	
Aggravation by impulsion	OR= 1.23 (0.8 to 1.9)	
Sudden onset (gradual)	OR= 1.13 (0.7 to 1.8)	
Location:		
Lower back	OR= 1.7 (0.9 to 3.3)	
Radiating to thigh	OR= 1.5 (0.7 to 3.0)	
Below the knee	OR= 1.00	
Physical examination:		
Restriction of lumbar movement	OR= 1.37 (0.8 to 2.5)	
Transfer of pain	OR= 1.2 (0.8 to 1.9)	
Straight leg raising test (positive)	OR= 1.57 (0.9 to 2.8)	
Neurological deficit	OR= 1.72 (0.7 to 4.2)	
Muscle pain	OR= 0.89 (0.5 to 1.6)	
Percussion test (positive)	OR= 1.04 (0.6 to 1.9)	
Assessment by the GPs:		
LBP assessed as caused by occupation:		
Yes	OR= 0.9 (0.5 to 1.9)	
Likely	OR= 0.4 (0.2 to 0.8)	
Not at all	OR= 1.00	
Susceptible to develop chronic LBP:		
Most likely	OR= 2.00 (0.4 to 10.4)	
Likely	OR= 1.10 (0.2 to 5.5)	
Hardly	OR= 0.4 (0.1 to 2.1)	
Not at all	OR= 1.00	
Vulnerable to mental stress:		
Vulnerable	OR= 2.7 (1.0 to 7.4)	
Normal	OR= 2.7 (1.3 to 5.8)	
Sturdy	OR= 2.10 (1.1 to 4.1)	
Very sturdy	OR= 1.00	
⁷ Shaw ³⁵		Reported multivariate analysis only
⁷ Shaw ³⁶		Reported multivariate analysis only
⁷ Shaw ³⁷	Back disability risk questionnaire (BDRQ) item	Relative risk (95% CI) for unsolved pain or disability at 3 months follow-up based on BDRQ scores
Cause of injury		
Over-exertion	-	
Bodily reaction	RR=1.15 (0.69 to 1.85)	
Fall	RR=2.66 (1.46 to 4.86)	
Other	RR=3.07 (1.41 to 6.70)	
Pain intensity rating (0-10)		
0-4	-	
5-7	RR=1.60 (0.95 to 2.70)	

8-10	RR=2.92 (1.67 to 5.12)
Changes in pain since onset	
Improved	-
Same	RR=1.38 (0.85 to 2.25)
Worse	RR=2.05 (1.27 to 3.30)
Missed a day of work already?	
No	-
Yes	RR=2.33 (1.57 to 3.45)
Job tenure	
Less than 1 year	-
1-2 yr	RR=0.44 (0.25 to 0.80)
2-5 yr	RR=0.45 (0.27 to 0.74)
>5 yr	RR=0.40 (0.25 to 0.65)
Negative supervisor response	
No	-
Yes	RR=1.77 (1.11 to 2.84)
Physical job demands (1-10)	
0-6	-
7-8	RR=0.83 (0.51 to 1.34)
9-10	RR=1.10 (0.69 to 1.76)
Prior back surgery?	
No	-
Yes	RR=4.54 (1.35 to 15.31)
Past work absence due to LBP	
No	-
Yes	RR=1.31 (0.87 to 1.95)
Employer allows modified duty?	
No	-
Yes	RR=0.78 (0.53 to 1.13)
Job enjoyment (1-10)	
1-6	-
7-8	RR=0.52 (0.31 to 0.88)
9-10	RR=0.59 (0.36 to 0.97)
Worries about re-injury	
A little or not at all concerned	-
Somewhat concerned	RR=2.25 (1.36 to 3.73)
Very or extremely concerned	RR=2.16 (1.30 to 3.58)
Full return to work within 4 weeks?	
Unlikely or not sure	-
Probably	RR=0.55 (0.36 to 0.84)
Definitely	RR=0.26 (0.15 to 0.46)
Frequency of moderate exercise?	
Never or rarely	-
1-3 times per week	RR=1.04 (0.67 to 1.62)
>4 times per week	RR=1.33 (0.77 to 2.31)
General health rating	
Excellent or very good	-
Good	RR=1.33 (0.61 to 1.95)
Fair or poor	RR=1.24 (0.45 to 3.42)
Felt downhearted and blue?	
None or little of the time	-
Some or a good bit of the time	RR=1.67 (1.09 to 2.55)
Most or all of the time	RR=3.66 (1.63 to 8.25)
Felt under stress?	
None or little of the time	-
Some or a good bit of the time	RR=1.94 (1.26 to 2.98)
Most or all of the time	RR=3.61 (2.04 to 6.40)

Clinician Response		Relative risk>1.0 is associated with unresolved pain or disability at 3 month follow-up
Prior medical evaluation for LBP?		
No	-	
Yes	RR=1.49 (1.01 to 2.10)	
Rating of functional limitation		
None or mild	-	
Moderate	RR=1.16 (0.75 to 1.80)	
Significant or severe	RR=1.82 (1.09 to 3.05)	
Non-organic sign or symptoms?		
No	-	
Yes	RR=1.67 (1.02 to 2.72)	
Pain pattern		
Localized	-	
Diffuse	RR=1.61 (0.96 to 2.69)	
Radicular pain?		
No	-	
Yes	RR=1.76 (1.10 to 2.82)	
Leg pain radiating below knee?		
No	-	
Yes	RR=2.86 (1.43 to 5.73)	
Any evidence of depression?		
No	-	
Yes	RR=1.39 (0.88 to 2.19)	
Modified duty options available?		
No or uncertain	-	
Yes	RR=0.58 (0.39 to 0.86)	
Estimated days until full-duty to return to work		
0-7	-	
8-14	RR=0.97 (0.62 to 1.53)	
15-45	RR=2.12 (1.32 to 3.40)	
Risk of chronic pain?		
Very unlikely	-	
25%chance	RR=1.14 (0.73 to 1.78)	
At least 50% chance	RR=1.44 (0.76 to 2.75)	
Significant comorbidities?		
No	-	
Yes	RR=1.34 (0.82 to 2.19)	
Sieben ³⁸		Reported multivariate analysis only
Sieben ³⁹		Reported multivariate analysis only
Swinkels-Meewisse ⁴⁰		Reported multivariate analysis only
Thomas ⁴¹		No information about prognostic factors
Valat ⁴²		No information about prognostic factors

^{1,2,3,4,5,6,7} Same cohort;

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