

e-Appendix: Summary of the standardized instruments used to measure key constructs in subjects with nonspecific back pain that has caused work absence

Measurement	Instrument used	No. of items	Scoring range	Index of reliability or validity*
Back-related functional limitations	Roland–Morris Disability Questionnaire ^{1–6}	24	0 to 100	Construct validity: r = 0.78–0.89
Pain levels: current, worst in past 6 mo, average over past 6 mo	11-point numerical rating scale ^{7,8}	3	0 to 10 each	r = 0.90
Psychological distress	Symptom Checklist-90 Revised ^{9–14}		0 to 4 each	Internal consistency: Cronbach's α = 0.77–0.90
Depression		10		
Somatization		7		
Fear-avoidance beliefs	Fear-Avoidance Beliefs Questionnaire ^{15,16}			Test–retest reproducibility: Cohen's κ = 0.74
In general activities		5	0 to 30	
At work		11	0 to 66	
At work:				<i>Internal consistency:</i>
Psychological demands	Karasek's Job Content Questionnaire ^{17,18}	9	–6 to 21	Cronbach's α = 0.73–0.74
Decision latitude	Karasek's Job Content Questionnaire ^{17,18}	9	24 to 96	Cronbach's α = 0.81–0.83
Social support	Modified work APGAR ^{19–24}	7	7 to 21	Cronbach's α = 0.86
Effort–reward imbalance	Items drawn from Siegrist's questionnaire ^{25,26}	2	1 to 4 each	Cronbach's α > 0.70
Characteristics of the patient–physician encounter	Questions drawn from the work of Cherkin et al ²⁷ and Von Korff et al ²⁸	13	0 to 10 each	Unavailable
Coping strategies for pain	Items drawn from the Pain Coping Strategies Questionnaire ²⁹	7	0 to 10 each	Unavailable
Dramatization of diagnosis	Items adapted from the work of Cedraschi et al ³⁰	4	Yes/No	Unavailable
Self-efficacy	Scale developed by Dionne and Nouwen ³¹	8	0 to 100	Cronbach's α = 0.88
Health locus of control (internal, external, chance)	Multidimensional Health Locus of Control Scales ^{32,33}	Int 6 Ext 6 Ch 6	6 to 36 6 to 36 6 to 36	Cronbach's α > 0.72

Note: APGAR = adaptability, partnership, growth, affection and resolve (index), Int = internal, Ext = external, Ch = chance.

*Information about the psychometric qualities of questionnaires is given with the understanding that its interpretation, particularly with respect to instrument validity, requires additional methodological detail.

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