Saskatchewan Low Back Pain Pathway Primary Care Provider Treatment Algorithm



Pattern 5: Pain Disorder

Objective of Assessment:
 To specify the environment or situations in which Pain Disorder occurs To identify precursor (antecedent) factors that influence behaviour To identify consequent factors that influence behaviour
Assessment
Complete history as per Primary Care Provider Assessment Tool
LIFESTYLE QUESTIONNAIRE identifies possible need to ask the following questions:
1. Do you have pain that has lasted longer than three months? ☐ Yes ☐ No
2. Does your pain keep you from doing the work, play or daily activities you want to do?☐ Yes☐ No
3. Has your doctor ruled out surgery? ☐ Yes ☐ No
IF YES, THEN CONTINUE
Subjective History
Need assistance with personal care? Blame others for your situation?* Have constant pain? Demand a physical diagnosis? Have an expanding array of symptoms? Have a high perceived level of disability? Receive financial compensation? * Sought legal consultation (union, worker reps)?* Have multiple medical consultations? Had negative family/workplace/social situations? * Had poor medication response? Experienced sexual dysfunction? Had sleep disturbances? *
6. Are you: Unemployed? Experiencing unexplained deterioration
The greater the number of positive responses, the higher the probability of a Pain Disorder. * If all five history points are present the risk of pain disorder is 99% (Treating the Patient with Pain Disorder, The CBI Method)
Physical Examination
Complete physical as per Primary Care Provider Assessment Tool
Check Waddell's Signs (More than three of four groups support a diagnosis of Pain Disorder): Superficial and widespread tenderness or nonanatomic tenderness. Stimulation tests: Axial loading and pain on simulated spinal rotation. Distracted straight leg raise and double straight leg raise lower than single straight leg raise. Non-anatomic or regional sensory changes.

Diagnosis

If assessed as Pain Disorder, refer to Multi Disciplinary Clinic. Provide assessment results with referral.

Material developed by the Saskatchewan Spine Pathway Working Group and should not be republished without the permission of the Saskatchewan Ministry of Health.