

Additional file 4: Clarity of definitions of Back pain: Inception Cohort studies

Ref (year of pub)	Area of BP (1 point)	Recall period (1 point)						Type (1 point)	Severity described	Consequences reported	Attempted to collect valid data (1 point)	Conclusion
	Location	Now	Past week	Past month	Past year	> 1 year	pain ever	-1 st ever -Episodic -Ongoing -?		-Seek care -Downtime -Disability		Clear definition of BP (x/4)
[23] Aartun, (2016)	MB/LB*						X	-1 st ever - - -	No	- - -	Diagram used, pilot study of the questionnaire	4/4
[24] Barke, (2014)	?			X (6 mth)	X		X	-1 st ever - - -	No	- - -	NR	2/4
[25] Burton, (1996)	LB	X			X		X	-1 st ever - - -	No	-Seek care - -Disability	NR	3/4
[26] Mustard, (2005)	?				X		X	-1 st ever - - -	No	- - -Disability	Used a pre-validated questionnaire	3/4
[27] Newcomer, (1996)	LB				X		X	-1 st ever - - -	No	-Seek care -Downtime -	Used a pre-validated questionnaire	4/4
[28] Poussa, (2005)	LB				X		X	-1 st ever - - -	No	- - -	Diagram used	3/4
[29] Triki, (2015)	LB					X		-1 st ever - - -	No	-Seek care - -	NR	3/4

BP: back pain, LB: low back, MB: mid back, NR: not reported, mth: months, MB/LB*: collected data from regions separately, however reported together as spinal pain