

Lumbar discectomy

Please refer to National Guidance for full details, complete the checklist and file for future compliance audit.

Evidence Based Interventions Phase II policy confirms this procedure will only be funded when the following criteria are met:

Discectomy may be offered to patients with compressive nerve root signs and symptoms lasting > 3 months despite best efforts with non-operative management. (previously 6 weeks)

<i>In ordinary circumstances*, the surgeon should not consider discectomy unless the patient meets the following criteria.</i>	Delete as appropriate	
	Yes	No
<i>Patient has experienced compressive nerve root signs and symptoms lasting three months or more (except in severe cases) despite best efforts with non-operative management.</i>		

**If clinician considers need for surgical intervention on clinical grounds outside of these criteria, please refer to the SY ICB's Individual Funding Request policy for further information.*

Please note: This guideline is not intended to cover patients who demonstrate a deterioration in neurological function (e.g. objective weakness, sexual dysfunction, cauda equina syndrome). These patients require an urgent referral to an acute spinal centre for further evaluation and imaging, as non-operative treatment may lead to irreversible harm.