		The management of in gener	of acute low-back p ral practice	ain	
		Office use only:	GP ID :	CLINIC	ID:
PA	RT A				
1	First name		Surname		
2	Email:			_	
3	Would you like us study when it is pu	to send you a copy of the blished?	he results of this	Yes	No

Office use only:	GP ID:		CLINIC ID:	
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#### **PART B**

The following questions **all** relate to **patients with acute, non-specific low-back pain**. This means patients with uncomplicated low-back pain of less than three months duration and without any serious underlying pathology suspected.

Please <u>circle</u> a number (from 1 to 7) for each item below that best represents your views about plain x-rays.

1	People who are important to me professionally think that I should manage patients with acute non-specific low-back pain without referring for plain x-ray	Strongly disagree	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Strongly agree
2	For me, managing these patients without referring for plain x-ray is easy	Strongly disagree	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Strongly agree
3	I expect to manage these patients without referring for plain x-ray	Strongly disagree	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Strongly agree
4	Other GPs would approve of me managing these patients without referring for plain x-ray	Strongly disagree	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Strongly agree
5	I have complete control over the decision on whether I manage these patients without referring for plain x-ray	Strongly disagree	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Strongly agree
6	I think WorkCover would approve of me managing compensable patients with acute non-specific low-back pain without referring for plain x-ray	Strongly disagree	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Strongly agree
7	Managing these patients without referring for plain x-ray is an appropriate part of my work as a GP	Strongly disagree	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Strongly agree
8	I intend to manage these patients without referring for plain x-ray	Strongly disagree	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Strongly agree
9	If I manage these patients without referring for plain x-ray I might miss important underlying pathology	Unlikely	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Likely
10	Whether or not I manage these patients without referring for plain x-ray is entirely up to me	Strongly disagree	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Strongly agree
11	I plan to manage these patients without referring for plain x-ray	Strongly disagree	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Strongly agree
12	I am confident that I can manage these patients without referring for plain x-ray	Strongly disagree	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Strongly agree
13	Radiologists would approve of me managing these patients without referring for plain x-ray	Strongly disagree	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Strongly agree
14	If I manage these patients without referring for plain x-ray I might increase my vulnerability to legal action	Unlikely	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Likely
15	It is part of my professional role as a GP to refer these patients for plain x-ray in order to reassure them that there is nothing seriously wrong	Strongly disagree	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Strongly agree
16	Patients who come to me with acute non-specific low-back pain expect that I will manage them without referring for plain x-ray	Strongly disagree	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Strongly agree

	The man	agement in gene			oack	pain						
17	Thinking about your next 10 patients pr specific low-back pain, how many of the				ray?				of 1	0 [ <i>ple</i>	ease	specify]
18	I am confident that I can reassure patie non-specific low-back pain that there is seriously wrong without referring for pla	nothing	S	trongly isagree	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Strongly agree
19	If I manage these patients without refer x-ray I feel that I am protecting them frounnecessary radiation			Inlikely	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Likely
20	If I don't refer these patients for plain x- go to another GP/health care provider v			Inlikely	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Likely
21	It is in accordance with Medicare policy manage these patients without referring x-ray			trongly isagree	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Strongly agree
22	It is expected of me that I manage thes without referring for plain x-ray	e patients		trongly isagree	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Strongly agree
23	If I refer these patients for plain x-ray I spend extra time explaining results to the not relevant to their back pain			Inlikely	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Likely
24	Patients with acute non-specific low-ba to the consultation with an expectation should have a plain x-ray			Jnlikely	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Likely
25	When patients come to the consultation expectation that they should have a pla [circle a response to indicate how likely manage them without referring for plain	in x-ray, I a you are]		Less likely	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	More likely
26	I feel under pressure to manage these without referring for plain x-ray	patients		trongly isagree	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Strongly agree
27	When I am uncertain of my diagnosis a useful	plain x-ray	is L	Inlikely	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Likely
28	Being uncertain of my diagnosis makes response to indicate how difficult it is] these patients without referring for plair	.to manage	`	Less difficult	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	More difficult
29	If I manage these patients without refer x-ray they will not feel reassured that the seriously wrong			Inlikely	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Likely
30	For me, managing patients with acute r [circle a response for each item below]	non-specific	low-ba	ack pain v	withou	t refe	erring	for p	olain x	-ray is	i	
ŧ	Bad practice	1 2	3	4	5	6	7	C	Good	practi	ice	
k	Harmful to the patient	1 2		4	5	6	7					e patient
	c) The wrong thing to do	1 2		4	5	6	7		The rig		ing	to do
	Useless	1 2		4	5	6	7		Jseful		al -	
	e) Not my preferred approach	1 2	3	4	5	6	7	Λ	viy pre	eterre	d ap	proach

	The management of action in general process.		ack	pain						
31		Strongly disagree	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Strongly agree
32		Strongly disagree	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Strongly agree
33	I am aware of the recommendation regarding referral for guideline for managing patients with acute non-specific I [Please tick one box that best describes your opinion]			n the	evide	ence-	base	d	Y	ÆS
										10
34	Practising in a manner consistent with the evidence-base means [Please tick one option below that best des					ı-spe	CITIC I	ow-ba	ack p	aın
	a) Referring these patients for plain	n x-ray								
	b) Referring these patients for plain x-ray only when a features (red flags) of serious conditions are p									
	c) Managing these patients without referring for plain	n x-ray								
	d) Other (please s	pecify)								
PA	ART C									
	ase <u>circle</u> a number (from 1 to 7) for each item below t y active.	hat best r	epre	sents	you	r vie	ws al	out	advid	ce to
1	Thinking about your next 10 patients presenting with acute back pain, how many of them will you advise to stay active		cific l	OW-				of 1		ease
2	For me, advising these patients to stay active is easy	Strongly disagree	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Strongly agree
3	I expect to advise these patients to stay active	Strongly disagree	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Strongly agree
4	The decision to advise these patients to stay active is beyond my control	Strongly disagree	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Strongly agree
5	If I advise these patients to stay active, they will think that I am unsympathetic to their pain	Unlikely	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Likely
6	Advising these patients to stay active is an appropriate part of my work as a GP	Strongly disagree	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Strongly agree
7	I feel under pressure to advise these patients to stay active	Strongly disagree	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Strongly agree
8	Patients with acute non-specific low-back pain complain of severe pain	Unlikely	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Likely
9	When patients with acute non-specific low-back pain complain of severe pain, I am[circle a response to indicate how likely you are]to advise them to stay active	Less likely	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	More likely
10	I am confident that I can advise these patients to stay active if I want to	Strongly disagree	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Strongly agree

	The management of ac in general p		ack	pain						
11	Sometimes I forget to advise these patients to stay active	Strongly disagree	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Strongly agree
12	Advice about activity needs to be tailored to the individual	Strongly disagree	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Strongly agree
13	When advice about activity needs to be tailored to the individual patient, I am [circle a response to indicate how likely you are]to advise them to stay active	Less likely	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	More likely
14	I intend to advise these patients to stay active	Strongly disagree	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Strongly agree
15	It is expected of me that I advise these patients to stay active	Strongly disagree	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Strongly agree
16	Advising these patients to stay active is not part of my professional role	Strongly disagree	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Strongly agree
17	People who are important to me professionally think that I should advise these patients to stay active	Strongly disagree	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Strongly agree
18	Other GPs would approve of my giving advice to stay active to these patients	Strongly disagree	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Strongly agree
19	I plan to advise these patients to stay active	Strongly disagree	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Strongly agree
20	Patients with acute non-specific low-back pain will get better regardless of whether I advise them to stay active or not	Unlikely	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Likely
21	Patients who come to me with acute non-specific low-back pain expect that I will advise them to stay active	Strongly disagree	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Strongly agree
22	If I advise these patients to stay active, they will exacerbate their low-back pain	Unlikely	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Likely
23	If I don't advise these patients to stay active, they will develop chronic pain	Unlikely	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Likely
24	If I advise these patients to stay active, they will improve at a faster rate	Unlikely	Í	2	3	4	5	6	7	Likely
25	Whether I advise these patients to stay active or not is entirely up to me	Strongly disagree	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Strongly agree
26	It's difficult to find time in the consultation to advise these patients to stay active	Strongly disagree	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Strongly agree
27	Patients with acute non-specific low-back pain don't ask for advice about activity in the consultation	Unlikely	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Likely
28	When these patients don't ask for advice about activity in the consultation, I am [circle a response to indicate how likely you are]to advise them to stay active	Less likely	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	More likely
29	If I advise these patients to stay active, they will ignore my advice anyway	Unlikely	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Likely

30		sing patients with acute non	-spec	ific low	/-back	pain to	stay	active	is	
	a) '	Bad practice	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Good practice
	b)	Harmful to the patient	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Beneficial to the patient
	c)	The wrong thing to do	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	The right thing to do
	d)	Useless	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Useful
	e)	A waste of my time	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	A good use of my time

11 I am aware of the recommendation regarding advice to stay active (activation) from the evidence-based guideline for managing patients with acute non-specific low-back pain. (Please tick one box that best describes your opinion)

YES

NO

**32** Advising these patients to stay active means ... (*Please tick the one box below that best describes your opinion*)

- a) Advising the patient not to lie in bed
- b) Advising the patient to continue with their normal daily activities within the limits of pain
- c) Advising the patient to do specific back exercises
- d) Advising the patient to do general exercises (eg. walking)
- e) Other (please specify)

#### **PART D**

Here are some of the things which people have told us about their acute non-specific low-back pain. For each statement please <u>circle</u> any number from 1 to 7 to say how much physical activities (such as bending, lifting, walking or driving) affect, or would affect, back pain:

1	Physical activity makes acute non-specific low-back pain worse	Strongly disagree	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Strongly agree
2	Physical activity might harm people with acute non- specific low-back pain	Strongly disagree	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Strongly agree
3	People with acute non-specific low-back pain should not do physical activities which (might) make their pain worse	Strongly disagree	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Strongly agree
4	People with acute non-specific low-back pain cannot do physical activities which (might) make their pain worse	Strongly disagree	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Strongly agree

#### **PART E**

This section contains four patient scenarios about patients who present to you with acute low-back pain. In the scenarios we have varied a range of features that might influence your management decisions (in regards to investigations you might order and interventions you might recommend). At the end of each scenario we ask you to indicate whether or not you would order an investigation for the patient described in the scenario, and what interventions you would recommend for this patient. The scenarios differ slightly in various elements. We are aware that the scenario format means that skills you may normally draw on, such as evaluating non-verbal clues from the patient and performing a physical examination, cannot be a factor in your assessment. Nevertheless, given this understanding, we hope that you address each scenario and answer the questions as best as you can with the information provided. We have left space for you to comment on your decisions, if you wish.

#### Scenario 1

A 48 year old office worker attends your clinic. He is usually very active, playing lots of sport and does regular exercise (eg jogging, gym). He has low-back pain, rated 5 out of 10. The pain started two weeks ago and is located in the low back region, right sided, no radiation. The pain is relieved by stretching his low back and using a heated wheat bag. The pain is worse after playing sport, to the point where in the last week he had to stop mid-game during basketball. He has no previous history of low-back pain. The patient thinks that an x-ray is required to "find out what is wrong", and he is fearful that movement and activity might make the pain worse.

<ul><li>1. Would you order any investigations for this patient at this visit?</li><li>Please tick all that apply:</li><li>None</li></ul>
Lumbosacral plain x-ray
Lumbar CT scan
Lumbar MRI
Other (please specify)
2. Which interventions would you recommend to this patient at this visit?  Please tick all that apply:  Bed rest for days
Paracetamol
☐ Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs
Advise the patient to do specific back exercises
Advise the patient to do general exercises (eg. walking)
Advise the patient to continue with their normal daily activities
Manual therapy (spinal manipulative therapy, mobilisation or massage)
Referral to another health care provider (eg physiotherapist, chiropractor, pain clinic, acupuncture).
If yes please specify
Other (please specify)
If you wish to comment on your management decisions, please do so here:

\_\_\_\_\_\_

#### Scenario 2

A 57 year old office worker sees you for low-back pain. She says her pain began 8 weeks ago. There was no specific incident that caused the pain. The pain is located in the lower back region, with no radiation. The pain is a dull ache (3 out of 10), with occasional sharp "twinges" with certain movements. The pain is relieved by heat and a massage from her spouse. She has no history of low-back pain. The patient is overweight (BMI 28), has mild hypertension, and a family history of type 2 diabetes. The patient rarely does any exercise. During the consultation she indicates to you that she is anxious that she may have a serious disease. The patient says "a friend had low-back pain like this and they had an x-ray and it showed that they really had something major wrong with them". She repeatedly requests an x-ray during the consultation.

<ul><li>1. Would you order any investigations for this patient at this visit?</li><li>Please tick all that apply:</li><li>None</li></ul>
Lumbosacral plain x-ray
Lumbar CT scan
Lumbar MRI
Other (please specify)
2. Which interventions would you recommend to this patient at this visit?  Please tick all that apply:  Bed rest for days
Paracetamol
☐ Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs
Advise the patient to do specific back exercises
Advise the patient to do general exercises (eg. walking)
Advise the patient to continue with their normal daily activities
Manual therapy (spinal manipulative therapy, mobilisation or massage)
Referral to another health care provider (eg physiotherapist, chiropractor, pain clinic, acupuncture).
If yes please specify
Other (please specify)
If you wish to comment on your management decisions, please do so here:

#### Scenario 3

A 36 year old real estate agent consults you for his low-back pain. He comes in on a very busy day at the practice and there are many patients already in the waiting room wanting to see you. The pain has been present for six weeks, starting two days after moving heavy furniture at home. Pain is described as an ache (4 to 5 out of 10). There is no radiation. He has had previous, similar episodes of low back pain that have lasted one to two weeks only. The patient has no other health concerns. The patient has seen you, or a colleague of yours in the practice, weekly over the last four weeks for their low-back pain. He is dissatisfied that he has not already been referred for an x-ray, and insists that you refer him for an x-ray now.

<ul><li>1. Would you order any investigations for this patient at this visit?</li><li>Please tick all that apply:</li><li>None</li></ul>
Lumbosacral plain x-ray
Lumbar CT scan
Lumbar MRI
Other (please specify)
2. Which interventions would you recommend to this patient at this visit?  Please tick all that apply:  Bed rest for days
Paracetamol
☐ Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs
Advise the patient to do specific back exercises
Advise the patient to do general exercises (eg. walking)
Advise the patient to continue with their normal daily activities
Manual therapy (spinal manipulative therapy, mobilisation or massage)
Referral to another health care provider (eg physiotherapist, chiropractor, pain clinic, acupuncture).
If yes please specify
Other (please specify)
If you wish to comment on your management decisions, please do so here:

#### Scenario 4

A 28 year old woman has suffered from low-back pain for one week. She has been unable to do her job managing a hospital cafeteria for this time. She walks slowly into your consultation room, holding her back and grimacing. She sits with a loud groan. She says she has severe low-back pain, describing it as 9 out of 10. While anxious to return to work, she feels immobilised by the pain. There is no history of trauma. The pain is in the low-back area, without radiation. On physical examination there is marked limitation of anterior flexion and tenderness in the left paraspinal region. The neurological examination is normal with straight leg raising to 90 degrees. She has had numerous episodes of back pain in the past but thinks this is the worst episode she has ever had and is very worried that whatever is causing his problem is getting worse.

<ul><li>1. Would you order any investigations for this patient at this visit?</li><li>Please tick all that apply:</li><li>None</li></ul>
Lumbosacral plain x-ray
Lumbar CT scan
Lumbar MRI
Other (please specify)
<ul><li>2. Which interventions would you recommend to this patient at this visit?</li><li>Please tick all that apply:</li><li>Bed rest for days</li></ul>
Paracetamol
Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs
Advise the patient to do specific back exercises
Advise the patient to do general exercises (eg. walking)
Advise the patient to continue with their normal daily activities
Manual therapy (spinal manipulative therapy, mobilisation or massage)
Referral to another health care provider (eg physiotherapist, chiropractor, pain clinic, acupuncture).
If yes please specify
Other (please specify)
If you wish to comment on your management decisions, please do so here:

### Thank you very much for your participation!

Please provide an estimate of the time taken in minutes to complete this form

## Scoring key for behavioural constructs (Part B, Part C and Part D)

TPB constructs	Target behaviour	Items and scale	Scoring and interpretation
Attitudes	manage these patients (patients with acute non- specific low back pain) without referring for plain x-ray	PART B 5 direct items (#30 a-e); 7- pt scale	Att direct = mean of 5 items. Higher scores reflect positive attitude to target behaviour
	Ariay	6 indirect items - behavioural beliefs only (#9, 14, 19, 20, 23, 29); 7- pt scale	Recode items 9, 14, 20, 29 (reverse-score).  Att indirect = mean of 6 items. NB. No outcome evaluation items included. Higher scores reflect more favourable attitudes toward target behaviour
	advise these patients (patients with acute non- specific low back pain) to stay active	PART C 5 direct items (#30 a-e); 7- pt scale	Att direct = mean of 5 items. Higher scores reflect positive attitude to target behaviour
		6 indirect items – behavioural beliefs only (#5, 20, 22, 23, 24, 29); 7- pt scale	Recode items 5, 20, 22, 29 (reverse-score).  Att indirect = mean of 6 items. NB. No outcome evaluation items included. Higher scores reflect more favourable attitudes toward target behaviour
Subjective norms	manage these patients without referring for plain x-ray	PART B 3 direct items (#1, 22, 26); 7-pt scale	SN direct = mean of 3 items. Higher scores reflect greater social pressure to do target behaviour
		5 indirect items – normative beliefs only (#4, 6, 13, 16, 21); 7-pt scale	SN indirect = mean of 5 items. NB. No motivation to comply items included
	advise these patients to stay active	PART C 3 direct items (#7, 15, 17) 7-pt scale	SN direct = mean of 3 items. Higher scores reflect greater social pressure to do target behaviour
		2 indirect items – normative beliefs only (#18, 21); 7-pt scale	SN indirect = mean of 2 items. NB. No motivation to comply items included
Perceived behavioural control	manage these patients without referring for plain x-ray	PART B 4 direct items (#2, 12, 5, 10); 7-pt scale - 2 items are self-efficacy (#2, 12) - 2 items are controllability (#5, 10)	PBC direct = mean of 4 items. Higher scores reflect a greater level of control over target behaviour

in general practice			
		4 indirect items (#24, 27, 25, 28); 7-pt scale - 2 items are control beliefs (#24, 27) - 2 items are control power (#25, 28)	Recode item #25: 1=-3, 2=-2, 3=-1, 4=0, 5=+1, 6=+2, 7=+3. Recode item #28: 1=+3, 2=+2, 3=+1, 4=0, 5=-1, 6=-2, 7=-3.
			PBC indirect = (#24 x #25) + (#27 x #28) (range - 42 to +42) Positive scores reflect higher control over target behaviour. Negative scores indicate lower control
	advise these patients to stay active	PART C 4 direct items (#2, 10, 4, 25); 7-pt scale - 2 items are self-efficacy (#2, 10) - 2 items are controllability (#4, 25)	Recode item 4 (reverse- score).  PBC direct = mean of 4 items. Higher scores reflect a greater level of control over target behaviour
		6 indirect items (#8, 12, 27, 9, 13, 28); 7-pt scale - 3 items are control beliefs (#8, 12, 27) - 3 items are control power (#9, 13, 28)	Recode items #9, 13, 28: 1=-3, 2=-2, 3=-1, 4=0, 5=+1, 6=+2, 7=+3.  PBC indirect = (#8 x #9) + (#12 x #13) + (#27 x #28) (range -63 to +63) Positive scores reflect higher control over target behaviour. Negative scores indicate lower control
Behavioural intentions	manage these patients without referring for plain x-ray	PART B 4 direct items (#3, 8, 11, 17) - 3 items are generalised intention (#3, 8, 11); 7-pt scale - 1 item is intention performance (#17); 11-pt scale	BI direct = mean of 3 generalised intention items. Higher scores reflect a greater generalised intention to perform the target behaviour  BIP direct = single score from intention performance item (range 0 to 10). Higher score reflects higher behavioural intention to NOT perform the target behaviour (i.e. refer for plain x-ray - this is because of the manner in which the target behaviour is expressed in this item)
	advise these patients to stay active	PART C 4 direct items (#3, 14, 19, 1) - 3 items are generalised intention (#3, 14, 19); 7-pt scale	BI direct = mean of 3 generalised intention items. Higher scores reflect a greater generalised intention to perform the target

The management of acute low-back pain

# The management of acute low-back pain in general practice - 1 item is intention performance (#1); 11-pt scale BIP direct = single score from intention performance item (range 0 to 10). Higher score reflects higher behavioural intention to perform the target behaviour (i.e.

advise patients to stay

active)

Scoring of additional items (for purpose of	Relevant key message from guideline (i.e. x-ray	Items and scale	Scoring
trial)	or advice)		
Beliefs about professional role	x-ray	PART B 3 items (#7, 15, 31); 7-pt scale	Recode items 15, 31 (reverse-score).  Professional role summary score = mean of 3 items.
	advice	PART C 2 items (#6, 16); 7-pt scale	Recode item 16 (reverse- score). Professional role summary score = mean of 2 items.
Knowledge about key messages of the guideline	x-ray	PART B 2 items (#33, 34)	Individual items. The following responses indicate adequate knowledge: - 'yes' response to item 33 - option b and c is selected for item 34 (scored as 1=adequate, 0=not adequate)
	advice	PART C 1 item (#31)  N.B. Item 32 indicates their interpretation of the key message (what advice to stay active means to them)	Individual item. A 'yes' response to item 31 indicates adequate knowledge
Beliefs about capabilities (to identify red and yellow flags)	x-ray	PART B 1 item (#32)	Individual item.
Beliefs about capabilities (to reassure patient that nothing seriously wrong with their back without referring for plain x-ray)	x-ray	PART B 1 item (#18)	Individual item.
Environmental context (time)	advice	PART C 1 item (#26)	Individual item. Recode item 26 (reverse-score).
Memory	advice	PART C 1 item (#11)	Individual item. Recode item 11 (reverse-score).

The management of acute low-back pain	
in general practice	

Fear avoidance beliefs	advice about activity	PART D 4 items (#1-4 in Part C)	Recode items #1 to 4: 1=0, 2=1, 3=2, 4=3, 5=4, 6=5, 7=6.  Fear avoidance beliefs questionnaire physical score (FABQ-Phys) summary score = sum of items #1-4 (min to max score is 0 to 24). Interpretation: low scores = low fear avoidance beliefs.