

Neck Disability Index Questionnaire

Patient Last Name	Patient First Name	Patient ID	Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY) ____/____/____
Provider Last Name	Provider First Name	Provider Phone (area code first)	

Instructions: This questionnaire is designed to enable us to understand how much your neck pain has affected your ability to manage everyday activities. Please answer each Section by circling the **ONE CHOICE** that most applies to you. We realize you may feel that more than one statement may relate to you, but Please **just circle the one choice which closely describes your problem right now.**

SECTION 1--Pain Intensity

- A. I have no pain at the moment
- B. The pain is mild at the moment.
- C. The pain comes and goes and is moderate.
- D. The pain is moderate and does not vary much.
- E. The pain is severe but comes and goes.
- F. The pain is severe and does not vary much.

SECTION 2--Personal Care (Washing, Dressing etc.)

- A. I can look after myself without causing extra pain.
- B. I can look after myself normally but it causes extra pain.
- C. It is painful to look after myself and I am slow and careful.
- D. I need some help, but manage most of my personal care.
- E. I need help every day in most aspects of self-care.
- F. I do not get dressed, I wash with difficulty and stay in bed.

SECTION 3--Lifting

- A. I can lift heavy weights without extra pain.
- B. I can lift heavy weights, but it causes extra pain.
- C. Pain prevents me from lifting heavy weights off the floor but I can if they are conveniently positioned, for example on a table.
- D. Pain prevents me from lifting heavy weights, but I can manage light to medium weights if they are conveniently positioned.
- E. I can lift very light weights.
- F. I cannot lift or carry anything at all.

SECTION 4 --Reading

- A. I can read as much as I want to with no pain in my neck.
- B. I can read as much as I want with slight pain in my neck.
- C. I can read as much as I want with moderate pain in my neck.
- D. I cannot read as much as I want because of moderate pain in my neck.
- E. I cannot read as much as I want because of severe pain in my neck.
- F. I cannot read at all.

SECTION 5--Headache

- A. I have no headaches at all.
- B. I have slight headaches which come infrequently.
- C. I have moderate headaches which come in-frequently.
- D. I have moderate headaches which come frequently.
- E. I have severe headaches which come frequently.
- F. I have headaches almost all the time.

SECTION 6 -- Concentration

- A. I can concentrate fully when I want to with no difficulty.
- B. I can concentrate fully when I want to with slight difficulty.
- C. I have a fair degree of difficulty in concentrating when I want to.
- D. I have a lot of difficulty in concentrating when I want to.
- E. I have a great deal of difficulty in concentrating when I want to.
- F. I cannot concentrate at all.

SECTION 7--Work

- A. I can do as much work as I want to.
- B. I can only do my usual work, but no more.
- C. I can do most of my usual work, but no more.
- D. I cannot do my usual work.
- E. I can hardly do any work at all.
- F. I cannot do any work at all.

SECTION 8--Driving

- A. I can drive my car without neck pain.
- B. I can drive my car as long as I want with slight pain in my neck.
- C. I can drive my car as long as I want with moderate pain in my neck.
- D. I cannot drive my car as long as I want because of moderate pain in my neck.
- E. I can hardly drive my car at all because of severe pain in my neck.
- F. I cannot drive my car at all.

SECTION 9--Sleeping

- A. I have no trouble sleeping
- B. My sleep is slightly disturbed (less than 1 hour sleepless).
- C. My sleep is mildly disturbed (1-2 hours sleepless).
- D. My sleep is moderately disturbed (2-3 hours sleepless).
- E. My sleep is greatly disturbed (3-5 hours sleepless).
- F. My sleep is completely disturbed (5-7 hours sleepless).

SECTION 10--Recreation

- A. I am able engage in all recreational activities with no pain in my neck at all.
- B. I am able engage in all recreational activities with some pain in my neck.
- C. I am able engage in most, but not all recreational activities because of pain in my neck.
- D. I am able engage in a few of my usual recreational activities because of pain in my neck.
- E. I can hardly do any recreational activities because of pain in my neck.
- F. I cannot do any recreational activities at all

DISABILITY INDEX SCORE: % _____

I understand that the information I have provided above is current and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature _____ Date _____

NECK DISABILITY INDEX QUESTIONNAIRE SCORING AND INTERPRETATION

Patient Name _____ Date _____

Examiner _____

An informal “blurb” from the author Howard Vernon, D.C.

The Neck Disability Index (NDI) was developed in 1989 by Howard Vernon. The Index was developed as a modification of the Oswestry Low Back Pain Disability Index with the permission of the original author (J. Fairbank, 1980). In 1991, Vernon and Mior published the results of a study of reliability and validity in the *Journal of Manipulative and Physiologic Therapeutics*. Since then, approximately ten articles have appeared in the indexed literature on the NDI. All of these studies have confirmed the original reports of a high level of reliability and validity. We currently know that the NDI consists of one factor - “physical disability” - although NDI scores correlate well with SF-36 mental component scores as well. We know that the minimum detectable score and the minimal clinically important difference amounts to the same figure - 5 NDI points.

The NDI has become a standard instrument for measuring self-rated disability due to neck pain and is used by clinicians and researchers alike.

Scoring

Each of the 10 items is scored from 0 - 5. The maximum score is therefore 50. The obtained score can be multiplied by 2 to produce a percentage score. Occasionally, a respondent will not complete one question or another. The average of all other items is then added to the completed items.

The original report provided scoring intervals for interpretation, as follows:

0 - 4 = no disability

5 - 14 = mild

15 - 24 = moderate

25 - 34 = severe

Above 34 = complete.

Please note:

This means 15-24 out of 50 (the RAW SCORE) equates with moderate disability.

It is recommended that the NDI be used at baseline and for every 2 weeks thereafter within the treatment program to measure progress. As noted above, at least a 5-point change is required to be clinically meaningful. Patients often do not score the items as zero, once they are in treatment. In other words, it is common to find that patients will continue to score between 5 - 15 despite having made excellent recovery (i.e., they may be back to work). The practitioner should avoid the trap of “treating till zero”, as this is not supportable based on current evidence.

Interpretation of Neck Disability Index Scores

Raw Score	Relative Impairment
0-4	None
5-14	Mild
15-24	Moderate
25-34	Severe
> 35	Complete