

	Boswell	Boyan	Burchiel	Fendrick	Flum	Jarvik	Ondra	Manchikanti	Kirkpatrick	Kuebler	Queenan	Lurie	Faciszewski	Voting Member Average	Overall Average					
1	1. What level of confidence does the evidence provide in addressing the outcomes needed to determine the effectiveness of lumbar spinal fusion for low back pain due to lumbar degenerative disc disease?																			
	<i>1-Low</i>	<i>-2-</i>	<i>3-Intermediate</i>	<i>-4-</i>	<i>5-High</i>	3	2	3	4	3	4	3	2	2	2	2	4	5	2.89	3.00
2	2. What level of confidence does the evidence provide for characterizing the complications, adverse events and other harms from lumbar spinal fusion for degenerative disc disease?																			
	<b>A. Short Term ( up to 2 years post fusion surgery)</b>																			
	<i>1-Low</i>	<i>-2-</i>	<i>3-Intermediate</i>	<i>-4-</i>	<i>5-High</i>	3	2	3	2	2	1	2	3	3	2	3	3	4	2.33	2.54
	<b>2 B. Long Term (more than 2 years post fusion surgery)</b>																			
	<i>1-Low</i>	<i>-2-</i>	<i>3-Intermediate</i>	<i>-4-</i>	<i>5-High</i>	2	2	2	1	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	1	4	1.78	1.85
3	3. Based on the evidence presented, how likely is it that lumbar spinal fusion for lumbar degenerative disc disease improves clinical outcomes as compared to conservative treatment?																			
	<b>A. Short Term (up to 2 years post fusion surgery)</b>																			
	<i>1-Not Likely</i>	<i>-2-</i>	<i>3-Reasonably Likely</i>	<i>-4-</i>	<i>5-Very Likely</i>	3	3	3	2	1	1	2	2	3	2	4	3	3	2.22	2.46
	<b>B. Long Term (more than 2 years post fusion surgery)</b>																			
	<i>1-Not Likely</i>	<i>-2-</i>	<i>3-Reasonably Likely</i>	<i>-4-</i>	<i>5-Very Likely</i>	2	2	2	1	1	1		2	1	1	3	1	3	1.50	1.67

4	4. Based on the evidence presented, how likely is it that the various fusion procedures improve health outcomes for lumbar degenerative disc disease? Consider these procedures both with and without instrumentation <i>1-Not Likely -2- 3-Reasonably Likely -4- 5- Very Likely</i>																
	<b>Lumbar Fusion Procedure Without Instrumentation</b>																
	a. Posterolateral (gutter fusion)	3	2	3	3	1	1	2	2	3	2	3	3	3	2.38	2.38	
	b. Posterior Lumbar Interbody/ Transforaminal Interbody	2	2	3	3	1	1	2	2	1	2	3	1	1	1.85	1.85	
	c. Anterior Lumbar Interbody	2	2	3	3	1	1	3	2	2	2	3	1	5	2.31	2.31	
	d. Anterior/Posterior combined	2	2	3	3	1	1	3	2	1	2	3	1	1	1.92	1.92	
	<b>Lumbar Fusion Procedure/ With Instrumentation</b>																
	a. Posterolateral (gutter fusion)	3	3	3	3	1	1	2	2	3	2	4	3		2.50	2.50	
	b. Posterior Lumbar Interbody/ Transforaminal Interbody	2	2	3	3	1	1	2	2	2	2	3	1		2.00	2.00	
	c. (formerly d.) Anterior/Posterior combined	2	2	3	3	1	1	3	2	2	2	5	3		2.42	2.42	
	<b>B. Long Term (more than 2 years post fusion surgery)</b>																
	<b>Lumbar Fusion Procedure Without Instrumentation</b>																
	a. Posterolateral (gutter fusion)	2	2	2	3	1	1	2	2	2	1	2	1	3	1.85	1.85	
	b. Posterior Lumbar Interbody/ Transforaminal Interbody	2	2	2	3	1	1	2	2	1	1	2	1	3	1.77	1.77	
	c. Anterior Lumbar Interbody	2	2	2	3	1	1	3	2	1	1	2	1	5	2.00	2.00	
	d. Anterior/Posterior combined	2	2	2	3	1	1	3	2	1	1	2	1	1	1.69	1.69	
	<b>Lumbar Fusion Procedure/ With Instrumentation</b>																
	a. Posterolateral (gutter fusion)	2	3		3	1	1	2	2	2	1	2	1		1.82	1.82	
	b. Posterior Lumbar Interbody/ Transforaminal Interbody	2	2	2	3	1	1	2	2	1	1	2	1		1.67	1.67	
	c. (formerly d.) Anterior/Posterior combined	2	2	2	3	1	1	3	2	1	1	2	1	4	1.92	1.92	
5	5. What level of confidence does the evidence provide that radiographic interpretations are correlated with clinical outcomes for lumbar spinal fusion due to lumbar degenerative disc disease? <i>1-Low -2- 3- Intermediate -4- 5-High</i>	2	1	3	2	1	1	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	1.54	1.54	
6	6. Based on the evidence presented, how likely is it that the results generalize to the Medicare population? <i>1-Not Likely -2- 3- Reasonably Likely -4- 5- Very Likely</i>																
	A. Relief of pain:	3	2	3	3	1	3	5	4	3	3	3	3	1	2.85	2.85	
	B. Complications, adverse events and other harms:	3	2	3	2	2	2	4	4	3	2	2	2	1	2.46	2.46	