

# Questionnaires concerning spinal disorders

Additional information about your condition

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You have an appointment for a consultation as part of the spinal disorder care programme or are due to undergo specific treatment.

### **The results of your treatment are significant for several reasons.**

Measurable care results are used to monitor the quality and effectiveness of the care provided. These 'Patient Reported Outcome Measures', also referred to as 'PROMs', are based on standardised questionnaires that are used to measure pain, function and quality of life in an objective and quantifiable manner.

## **WHY QUESTIONNAIRES?**

- X For you**  
Obviously the main consideration is that the results should be as favourable as possible for you. As far as your doctor and the hospital are concerned, feedback on the choice and quality of your treatment is particularly useful to ensure that changes can be made if necessary.
- X For other patients**  
Feedback on the quality and outcome of your treatment can help to improve care for patients with similar ailments.
- X In general**  
National and international scientific research are vital to monitor the quality of back and neck treatments and to achieve permanent optimum quality of care.

- **Increase patient satisfaction levels**
- **Improve the quality of care**
- **Increase the efficiency of the specific approach**

## QUESTIONNAIRES AND TIMING

You will be asked to complete one or more brief questionnaires at regular intervals.

### **Questionnaire from the initial consultation**

Once you have made an initial appointment for a consultation concerning neck or back problems, you will be registered in the spinal disorder care programme.

As a result you will be presented with several brief questionnaires even before the first consultation. You may well receive another questionnaire depending on the answers you have provided. Your response to these questionnaires will help the doctor decide on the correct treatment option.

Until the start of the treatment you may well be asked to complete the same questionnaires before each subsequent consultation.

### **Questionnaire before the start of the treatment**

You will be asked to complete a few brief questionnaires before the actual start of the treatment. Your response to these questionnaires can help the doctor in charge of your treatment to determine the further course of treatment and assess the effectiveness of the treatment.

## Questionnaire after the start of the treatment

You will be sent further questionnaires three, six, twelve and twenty-four months after the start of your treatment. Your response will help your doctor assess the results of your treatment more effectively. The questionnaires are submitted in the event of surgical intervention, non-surgical treatments and multi-discipline rehabilitation programmes at the physical medicine department.

**It is in your interest to complete the questionnaires even though you are not obliged to do so.**

## NATIONAL SPINAL DISORDER REGISTER

The *Spine Society of Belgium* and the government jointly set up a register to assess the quality of back treatments, with a view to providing permanent optimum quality of care.

If you are receiving surgical or multi-discipline rehabilitation treatment for your lower back (lumbar spine), you will be asked whether the data in your questionnaires can be passed on to the national databank.

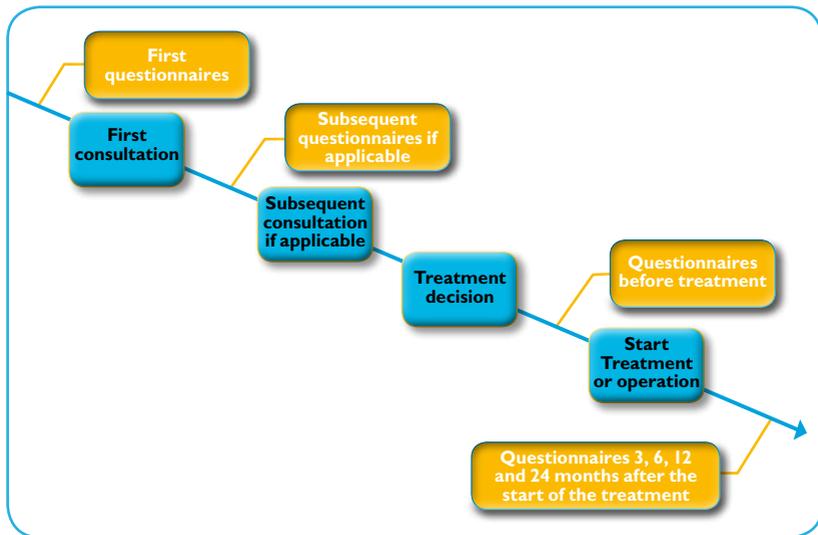
This data will be supplemented with information on your diagnosis and type of treatment by the doctor in charge of your treatment. The collated data will then be encrypted, forwarded and processed in a databank. Data concerning your identity will consequently never be visible to others when transmitted!

The results of these reports are also submitted to an international back treatment related databank (*Spine Tango*) for international comparison purposes.

The register is currently part of a pilot project about which you will receive further information if your treatment qualifies for it.

Participation is not obligatory and non participation will not affect the quality of the care you will receive.

However, we would like to underline the social significance of this quality related project: we can only continue to provide top quality care by assessing it in the first place. We would, therefore, like to encourage you to participate by completing the questionnaires.



## PROVISION OF QUESTIONNAIRES

The questionnaires are submitted via mynexuzhealth, a secure web application and app for patients of a number of Flemish hospitals that provide access to your medical dossier. In addition to the questionnaires, you will also find your medical reports, appointments, invoices, radiological image material, etc.

Additional information on mynexuzhealth is included in the brochure entitled 'Mynexuzhealth: access to your medical dossier'. The brochure is available online via [www.uzleuven.be/brochure/700352](http://www.uzleuven.be/brochure/700352).

Register at the  
[www.mynexuzhealth.be](http://www.mynexuzhealth.be)  
website or download the app.

Once a questionnaire becomes available to you, you can complete it in the section entitled 'Questionnaires' in the app or on the website. If you enter your e-mail address on the [mynexuzhealth.be](http://mynexuzhealth.be) website under the heading 'Messages', you will be sent a reminder by e-mail when a new questionnaire is ready. This way you will never forget to complete your questionnaires.

If you are not (yet) registered at mynexuzhealth, we will invite you by email to complete the questionnaires. Follow the link in the email and sign in using your date of birth. In this case you will only be able to access the questionnaires, not your complete dossier. To do so you will need to register at [www.mynexuzhealth.be](http://www.mynexuzhealth.be) or download the mynexuzhealth app.

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#### Design and Production

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This brochure is also available at [www.uzleuven.be/en/brochure/701096](http://www.uzleuven.be/en/brochure/701096).

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