Örebro Musculoskeletal Pain Questionnaire (ÖMPQ)  Linton and Boersma 2003

1. Name ______________________ Phone ______________________ Date ______________

2. Date of Injury ______________________ Date of birth ______________

3. Male □ Female □

4. Were you born in Australia*? Yes □ No □

These questions and statements apply if you have aches or pains, such as back, shoulder or neck pain. Please read and answer questions carefully. Do not take long to answer the questions, however it is important that you answer every question. There is always a response for your particular situation.

5. Where do you have pain? Place a tick (✓) for all appropriate sites.
   [ ] Neck [ ] Shoulder [ ] Arm [ ] Upper Back
   [ ] Lower Back [ ] Leg [ ] Other (state)

6. How many days of work have you missed because of pain during the past 18 months? Tick (✓) one.
   [ ] 0 days (1) [ ] 1-2 days (2) [ ] 3-7 days (3) [ ] 8-14 days (4)
   [ ] 15-30 days (5) [ ] 1 month (6) [ ] 2 months (7) [ ] 3-6 months (8)
   [ ] 6-12 months (9) [ ] over 1 year (10)

7. How long have you had your current pain problem? Tick (✓) one.
   [ ] 0-1 week (1) [ ] 1-2 weeks (2) [ ] 3-4 weeks (3) [ ] 4-5 weeks (4)
   [ ] 6-8 weeks (5) [ ] 9-11 weeks (6) [ ] 3-6 months (7) [ ] 6-9 months (8)
   [ ] 9-12 months (9) [ ] over 1 year (10)

8. Is your work heavy or monotonous? Circle the best alternative.
   0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
   Not at all  ______________________ Extremely ______________________

9. How would you rate the pain that you have had during the past week? Circle one.
   0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
   No pain  ______________________ Pain as bad as it could be ______________________

* Modified for use by WorkCover NSW (with permission)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Options</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10. In the past three months, on average, how bad was your pain on a 0-10 scale?</td>
<td>0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 No pain Pain as bad as it could be</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. How often would you say that you have experience pain episodes, on average, during the past three months?</td>
<td>0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Never Always</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Based on all things you do to cope, or deal with your pain, on an average day, how much are you able to decrease it?</td>
<td>0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Can't decrease it at all Can decrease it completely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. How tense or anxious have you felt in the past week?</td>
<td>0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Absolutely clam and relaxed As tense and anxious as I've ever felt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. How much have you been bothered by feeling depressed in the past week?</td>
<td>0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Not at all Extremely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. In your view, how large is the risk that your current pain may become persistent?</td>
<td>0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 No risk Very large risk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. In your estimation, what are the chances that you will be able to work in six months?</td>
<td>0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 No chance Very large chance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. If you take into consideration your work routines, management, salary, promotion possibilities and work mates, how satisfied are you with your job?</td>
<td>0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Not satisfied at all Completely satisfied</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Here are some of the things that other people have told us about their pain. For each statement, circle one number from 0 to 10 to say how much physical activities, such as bending, lifting, walking or driving, would affect your pain.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Scale</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18. Physical activity makes my pain worse.</td>
<td>0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</td>
<td>Completely disagree - Completely agree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. An increase in pain is an indication that I should stop what I'm doing until the pain decreases.</td>
<td>0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</td>
<td>Completely disagree - Completely agree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. I should not do my normal work with my present pain.</td>
<td>0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</td>
<td>Completely disagree - Completely agree</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Here is a list of five activities. Circle the one number that best describes your current ability to participate in each of these activities.

<table>
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<th>Activity</th>
<th>Scale</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21. I can do light work for an hour.</td>
<td>0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</td>
<td>Can’t do it because of pain problem - Can do it without pain being a problem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22. I can walk for an hour.</td>
<td>0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</td>
<td>Can’t do it because of pain problem - Can do it without pain being a problem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23. I can do ordinary household chores.</td>
<td>0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</td>
<td>Can’t do it because of pain problem - Can do it without pain being a problem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24. I can do the weekly shopping.</td>
<td>0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</td>
<td>Can’t do it because of pain problem - Can do it without pain being a problem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25. I can sleep at night.</td>
<td>0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</td>
<td>Can’t do it because of pain problem - Can do it without pain being a problem</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Explanatory Notes

The Örebro Musculoskeletal Pain Questionnaire (ÖMPQ) is a ‘yellow flag’ screening tool that predicts long-term disability and failure to return to work when completed four to 12 weeks following a soft tissue injury. A cut-off score of 105 has been found to predict those who will recover (with 95 per cent accuracy), those who will have no further sick leave in the next six months (with 81 per cent accuracy), and those who will have long-term sick leave (with 67 per cent accuracy).

The ÖMPQ predicted failure to return to work six months after compensable musculoskeletal injury in a NSW population of workers. The injuries in the study group were mixed, and the ÖMPQ was found to be more specific and sensitive for back injuries. In workers with back injuries screened at four to 12 weeks, a cut-off score of 130 correctly predicted 86 per cent of those who failed to return to work.

Identification, through the ÖMPQ, of workers at risk of failing to return to work due to personal and environmental factors provides the opportunity for treating practitioners to apply appropriate interventions (including the use of activity programs based on cognitive behavioural strategies) to reduce the risk of long-term disability in injured workers. Evidence indicates that these factors can be changed if they are addressed.

Administering the questionnaire

The ÖMPQ is designed to be a self administered tool completed by the worker in a quiet environment without assistance from another person. A detailed explanation is provided by the person administering the questionnaire:

“Information from this questionnaire helps us understand your problem better, and it especially helps us evaluate the possible long-term consequences your pain may have. It is important that you read each question carefully and answer it as best you can. There are no right or wrong answers. Please answer every question. If you have difficulty, select the answer that best describes your situation”.

Where uncertainty or a request for more information is expressed, encouragement is provided to “answer as best you can”. The questionnaire item may be read aloud to assist, however the question should not be rephrased. All questions should be answered, as missing values will reduce validity.

Scoring instructions

- For question 5, count the number of pain sites and multiply by two – this is the score (maximum score allowable is 10).
- For questions 6 and 7 the score is the number bracketed after the ticked box.
- For questions 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 18, 19 and 20 the score is the number that has been ticked or circled.
- For questions 12, 16, 17, 21, 22, 23, 24 and 25 the score is 10 minus the number that has been circled.
- Write the score in the shaded area beside each item.
- Add up the scores for questions 5 to 25 – this is the total ÖMPQ score.


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