

Policy statement:	Spinal Surgery for Non-Acute Lumbar Conditions
Status:	Individual Prior Approval

M&

SECCGs commission spinal surgery for non-acute lumbar conditions on a restricted basis.

Funding will only be available under the following circumstance:

- Surgical discectomy (standard or microdiscectomy) in selected patients with sciatica secondary to disc prolapse where conservative management for at least 4-6 weeks has failed.

or

- Lumbar decompression for sciatica with nerve root compression or severe central spinal stenosis with claudication symptoms in one of both legs.

M&SECCGs do not accept requests to fund spinal surgery for low back pain.

[NICE Guidance- Low back pain and sciatica in over 16s: assessment and management \(2016\)](#)

M&SECCGs will not fund and therefore advises that clinicians:

Do not offer spinal injections for managing low back pain.

Do not offer ultrasound for managing low back pain with or without sciatica.

Do not offer PENS for managing low back pain with or without sciatica.

Do not offer TENS for managing low back pain with or without sciatica.

Do not offer interferential therapy for managing low back pain with or without sciatica.

Do not offer traction for managing low back pain with or without sciatica.

Do not offer belts or corsets for managing low back pain with or without sciatica.

Do not offer foot orthotics for managing low back pain with or without sciatica.

Do not offer rocker sole shoes for managing low back pain with or without sciatica

Do not offer disc replacement in people with low back pain.

Do not offer spinal fusion for people with low back pain unless as part of a randomised controlled trial.

Funding for patients not meeting the above criteria will only be granted in clinically exceptional circumstances.

Applications for funding in such circumstances should be made to the Exceptional Case Team but should only be made where the patient demonstrates clinical exceptionality.

Further information on applying for funding in exceptional clinical circumstances can be found on the CCGs' website.