

# Medical Treatment Guidelines

Washington State Department of Labor and Industries

## Criteria for entrapment of a single lumbar nerve root

Procedure	Conservative care	Clinical findings		
		Subjective	Objective	Imaging
<b>Lumbar: laminectomy, laminotomy, discectomy, micro- discectomy, foraminotomy.</b>	Failure to improve with four weeks minimum.  For example: - Physical therapy - Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents - Traction  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>AND</b></p>	Sensory symptoms in dermatomal distribution may include:  Radiating pain, burning, numbness, tingling or paresthesia of lower extremity.  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>OR</b></p>	Dermatomal sensory deficit level of nerve root.  <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> Motor deficit (e.g., foot drop or quadriceps weakness).  Reflex changes.  <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> Positive EMG.  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>AND</b></p>	Abnormal test results that correlate with the involvement consistent with subjective and objective findings.  Tests include: CT Scan.  <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> MRI.  <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> Myelogram.
<p>Requests for authorization to treat lateral or central spinal stenosis not accompanied by nerve root entrapment or the necessity of arthrodesis will be reviewed by a Physician Adviser.</p>				

Date Introduced: March 1992.