

Spine Pain: Low Back and Neck

Helps organizations analyze utilization, treatment preferences, and outcomes for patients with back or neck pain



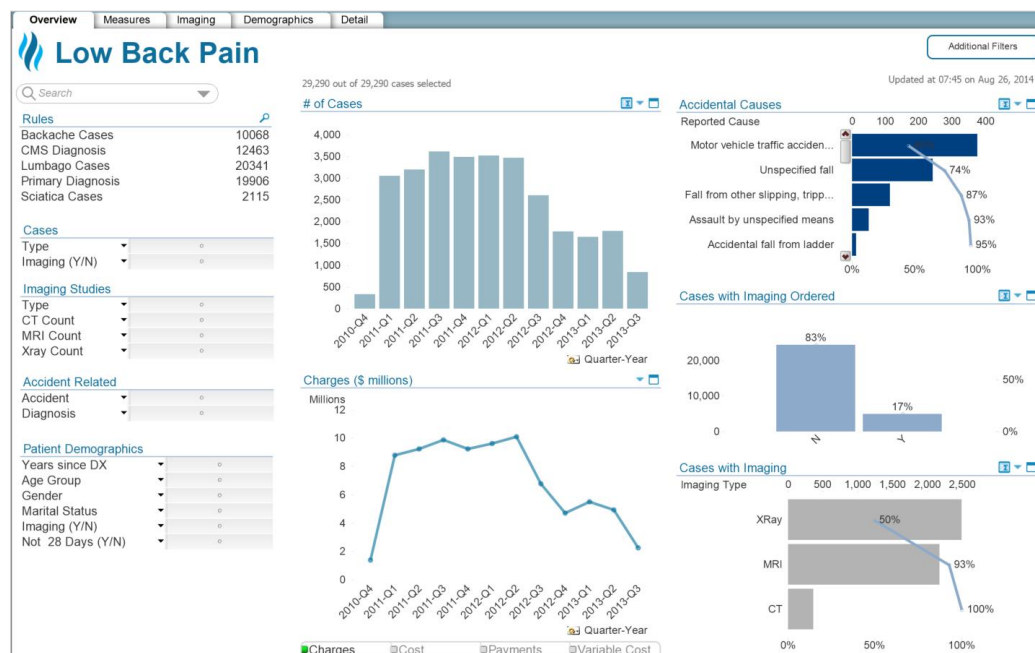
Type: Analytics Accelerator

ID: 1495

Revised: 2019-09-30

The **Spine Pain: Low Back and Neck** analytics accelerator provides data and visualizations to support organizations' efforts to improve assessment, diagnosis, treatment decision-making, and quality-of-life outcomes for patients with non-traumatic low back pain and neck pain.

Note: Like all analytics accelerators, this application is implemented in a custom way. Organizations identify their own areas of focus—and the appearance and functionality of the accelerator may differ from what is presented here.



This app provides insights to help teams improve care of patients with non-traumatic spine pain.

The problem

- **Low back pain and neck pain are common and costly.** Together they are among the most common reasons for physician visits and account for an estimated \$88 billion in annual healthcare costs.
- **Variation in medical practice is significant and contributes to overutilization.** Although few patients have a severe underlying condition, the use of narcotics, advanced imaging (MRI and CT), and surgical consultations for routine LBP are common despite several well-established guidelines recommending against their use as first-line care.
- **Adherence to treatment guidelines can reduce variation, costs, and patient risk.** Studies show that adherence to recommendations published in major clinical guidelines can help reduce variation and the use of unnecessary diagnostic and treatment modalities, thereby lowering costs. It can also lower patient risk and improve outcomes.

Intended users

- Chief Medical Officer
- Chief of Surgery
- Chief Quality Officer
- Chief Financial Officer
- Clinical directors
- Operational directors
- Clinical educators
- Spine and Primary Care service-line leadership and teams

Potential data sources

- EMR - Clinical
- Finance/Costing
- Claims
- Patient Satisfaction

Key measures

- Health-related quality of life (HRQOL)
- Appropriate use of opioids
- Reduce readmissions and ED/urgent care visits
- Imaging and overall cost-per-case, cost-per-episode
- Patient satisfaction

Our approach

The **Spine Pain: Low Back and Neck Analytic** accelerator supports a disciplined, data-driven approach to evaluation and care, helping to drive and sustain significant improvement in clinical and financial outcomes. Typical implementations focus on ensuring appropriate assessment (especially imaging), initial advice and treatment for acute pain, shared decision-making, and pain management—areas where getting it right is especially meaningful to improve quality and cost.

Benefits and features

- **Access an at-a-glance, near real-time view of quality of care and its impact.** The application dashboard visualizes outcome and process metrics in an easy-to-consume, one-page summary. You can see trends and associations as they develop—and take timely action to address issues.
- **Focus your team on what matters most.** As with all accelerators, the Spine Pain application allows you to set metric definitions in alignment with your organization's strategy. Outcome metrics typically include health-related quality of life (HRQOL) and functional status, imaging and overall cost-per-case, and patient satisfaction. Typical process metrics include documentation of patient-reported baseline measures and medical necessity for imaging, percentage of eligible patients and clinicians participating in education or shared decision-making, and compliance with care protocols related to pain management. The result? Your team understands the priorities and can help solve problems that stand in the way of improvement .
- **Do more than monitor: understand.** Detailed analytics provide dynamic data exploration, real-time filtering, and drill-down to patient-level detail. A Comorbidities tab enriches understanding of the patient and the appropriateness of the care they receive. The application also provides export or print capability for the patient list, metric performance, etc. so you can share and follow up.
- **Compare and contrast.** A Compare tab lets you review patient and care variables—demographics, variation in care, performance in different units, etc.—to determine what's working and not working to improve outcomes. This feature also allows you to gauge the ROI of improvement work in particular areas: what could you achieve if every unit and provider standardized to match your best performance?
- **Gain visibility across the continuum of care.** The app can be integrated with other applications—e.g., surgical intervention applications—across multiple service types to track care over time and maintain a view of the whole patient.

Use cases

- **A guidance team** is trying to identify their next area of focus for continuous improvement of patients' health-related quality of life (HRQOL) outcomes. They use the application to gauge the potential impact of reducing unwarranted variation in initial assessment and patient education. What is the best-performing unit doing—and what might widespread adoption of their methods mean for the organization?
- **The Chief Medical Officer** in a large healthcare system observes that spinal imaging (MRIs and CT scans) have been creeping upward over the previous three quarters. What are the drivers of this trend? He uses the accelerator to explore the data and determine any next steps.
- **The Head of Spine Surgery** understands that efforts to lower opioid prescriptions after surgery can sometimes affect patient satisfaction. Would better education and shared decision-making be warranted? As improvement efforts are implemented, she and colleagues use the application to monitor these outcomes, understand the factors that affect these results, and fine-tune local processes and interventions for best results.

This document provides an overview of technology that is offered by Health Catalyst. We are continuously improving our Technology and we reserve the right to make changes in specifications and features shown herein, or to discontinue any Technology described herein at any time without notice or obligation. Some technology may not be available for deployment based on current product status or may not be available to you because it was not included in your Order Forms.

Success stories

For examples of how customers have used Health Catalyst products and services to improve outcomes, visit <https://www.healthcatalyst.com/knowledge-center/success-stories/>

Contact us

For more information on how Health Catalyst products and services can help your organization, please contact us:

- Reach out to your sales representative
- Call us at (855) 309-6800
- Email us at info@healthcatalyst.com