

**Additional file 5: Clarity of definitions of Back pain: Cohort studies**

Ref (year of pub)	Area of BP (1 point) Location	Recall period (1 point)						Type (1 point) -1 <sup>st</sup> ever -Episodic -Ongoing -?	Severity described	Consequences reported -Seek care -Downtime -Disability	Attempted to collect valid data (1 point)	Conclusion  Clear definition of BP (x/4)
		Now	Past week	Past month	Past year	> 1 year	pain ever					
[30] van Gessel, (2011)	?			X (6 mth)				- -Episodic - -	Yes	- - -	NR	2/4

BP: back pain, LB: low back, MB: mid back, NR: not reported, mth: months