



## Lumbar Fusion Bundled Payment Model and Warranty

Adopted January 2019




[www.breecollaborative.com](http://www.breecollaborative.com) | [bree@qualityhealth.org](mailto:bree@qualityhealth.org)

- Established by the State Legislature
- Goal to improve quality, health outcomes, and cost-effectiveness of care in Washington State
- Bring together member clinicians, Washington State agencies, hospitals, health care systems, health insurance plans, and quality improvement organizations
- Select health care topics every year and develop evidence-based recommendations by convening workgroups of clinical experts, administrative experts, patients, and others
- Recommendations guide health care purchasing for Washington State agencies and set a community standard of care.

### Why bundled payments?

The majority of health care payments are for number of services provided rather than quality of care or per person or per episode of care. Bundled payments tie reimbursement to an entire episode of care while the warranty includes no reimbursement for complications resulting from poor care. We selected lumbar fusion due to a disproportionate rise in lumbar fusion compared to other spine surgeries, high variation in quality and billed charges, and evidence that for many patients considered candidates for elective lumbar fusion, there was no clear benefit of surgery compared to non-surgical care

### Our [Bundled Payment Model and Warranty](#):

Four Cycles	<b>Disability Despite Non-Surgical Therapy</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specification of the patient’s degree of functional impairment</li> <li>• Documentation of imaging findings confirming lumbar instability that correlate with the patient’s symptoms and signs</li> <li>• Document at least three months of structured non-surgical therapy delivered by a collaborative team</li> <li>• Documentation of severe disability unresponsive to non-surgical therapy</li> <li>• Participation in shared decision making</li> </ul>
	<b>Fitness for Surgery</b> 	Patient meets minimal standards to ensure safety and commitment to participate actively in return to function. This includes documenting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requirements related to patient safety</li> <li>• Patient engagement</li> <li>• Optimal preparation for surgery</li> <li>• Safety and efficacy of implanted devices</li> </ul>
	<b>Spinal Fusion Procedure</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General standards for a surgical team performing surgery</li> <li>• Elements of optimal surgical process</li> <li>• Participation in registries</li> </ul>
	<b>Post-Operative Care and Return to Function</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Standard process for post-operative care</li> <li>• Standardized hospital discharge process aligned with Washington State Hospital Association toolkit</li> <li>• Home health services</li> <li>• Follow-up appointments</li> </ul>

+ **Quality standards:** appropriateness, evidence-based surgery, ensuring rapid and durable return to function, the patient care experience, and avoidance of readmissions as an indicator of safety and control of cost.

+ **Warranty:** purchaser will not provide reimbursement for readmission for avoidable complications within the risk windows specified at 7, 30, and 90 days.

Read our report: [www.breecollaborative.org/topic-areas/previous-topics/suicide-prevention/](http://www.breecollaborative.org/topic-areas/previous-topics/suicide-prevention/)