

## DISCECTOMY FOR LUMBAR DISC PROLAPSE

### CRITERIA BASED ACCESS

Discectomy surgery is only commissioned in adult patients who meet the following access criteria:

- ❖ The patient has had magnetic resonance imaging, showing disc herniation (protrusion, extrusion, or sequestered fragment) at a level and side corresponding to the clinical symptoms;

#### AND

- ❖ The patient has radicular pain (below the knee for lower lumbar herniation's, into the anterior thigh for upper lumbar herniation's) consistent with the level of spinal involvement.

#### OR

- ❖ There is evidence of nerve-root irritation with a positive nerve-root tension sign (straight leg raise-positive between 30° and 70° or positive femoral tension sign);

#### AND

- ❖ Symptoms persist despite some non-operative treatment for at least 6 weeks (e.g. analgesia, physical therapy, bed rest etc.) provided that analgesia is adequate and there is no imminent risk of neurological deficit.