



Social Security (Tables for the Assessment of Work-related Impairment for Disability Support Pension) Determination 2011

Table 4 – Spinal Function

Introduction to Table 4

- Table 4 is to be used where the person has a permanent condition resulting in functional impairment when performing activities involving spinal function, that is, bending or turning the back, trunk or neck.
- The diagnosis of the condition must be made by an appropriately qualified medical practitioner.
- Self-report of symptoms alone is insufficient.
- There must be corroborating evidence of the person’s impairment.
- Examples of corroborating evidence for the purpose of this Table include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - a report from the person’s treating doctor;
 - a report from a medical specialist confirming diagnosis of conditions commonly associated with spinal function impairment (e.g. spinal cord injury, spinal stenosis, cervical spondylosis, lumbar radiculopathy, herniated or ruptured disc, spinal cord tumours, arthritis or osteoporosis involving the spine);
 - a report from a physiotherapist or other rehabilitation practitioner confirming loss of range of movement in the spine or other effects of spinal disease or injury.
- In using Table 4, descriptors are to be met only from spinal conditions. Restrictions on overhead tasks resulting from shoulder conditions should be rated under Table 2.

Points	Descriptors
0	<p><i>There is no functional impact on activities involving spinal function.</i></p> <p>(1) The person can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) bend down to pick a light object off the floor (e.g. a piece of paper); and (b) turn their trunk from side to side; and (c) turn their head to look to the sides or upwards.
5	<p><i>There is a mild functional impact on activities involving spinal function.</i></p> <p>(1) The person has some difficulty in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) activities over head height (e.g. activities requiring the person to look upwards); or (b) bending to knee level and straightening up again without difficulty; or (c) turning their trunk or moving their head (e.g. to look to the sides or upwards).

10	<p><i>There is a moderate functional impact on activities involving spinal function.</i></p> <p>(1) The person is able to sit in or drive a car for at least 30 minutes, and at least one of the following applies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the person is unable to sustain overhead activities (e.g. accessing items over head height); or (b) the person has difficulty moving their head to look in all directions (e.g. turning their head to look over their shoulder); or (c) the person is unable to bend forward to pick up a light object placed at knee height; or (d) the person needs assistance to get up out of a chair (if not independently mobile in a wheelchair).
20	<p><i>There is a severe functional impact on activities involving spinal function.</i></p> <p>(1) The person is unable to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) perform any overhead activities; or (b) turn their head, or bend their neck, without moving their trunk; or (c) bend forward to pick up a light object from a desk or table; or (d) remain seated for at least 10 minutes.
30	<p><i>There is an extreme functional impact on activities involving spinal function.</i></p> <p>(1) The person is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) completely unable to perform activities involving spinal function; or (b) unable to bend or turn their trunk or their neck to complete the most basic of daily activities (e.g. dressing, bathing, showering or light housework).