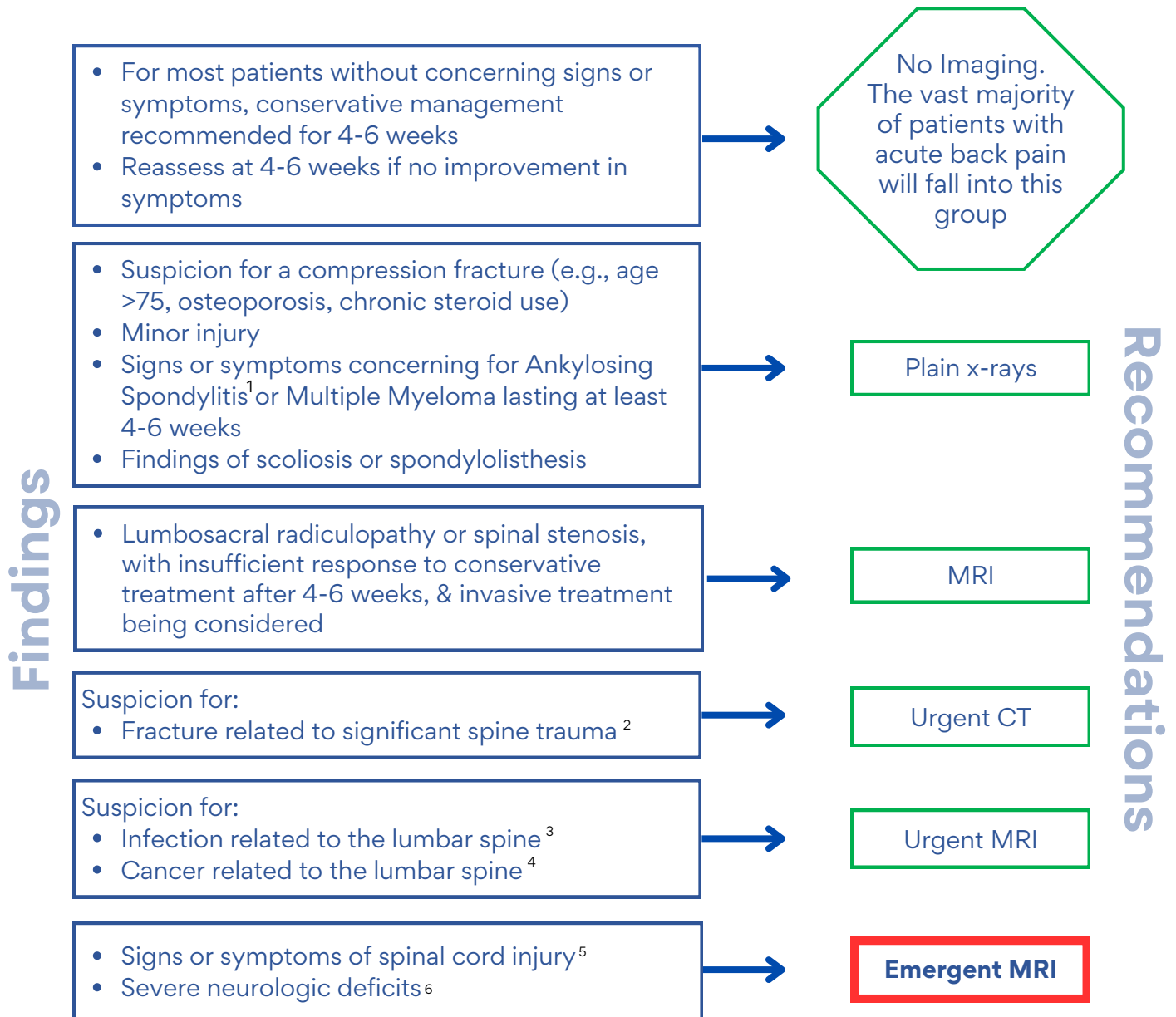


# Adult Acute Low Back Pain Spine Imaging Guide



<sup>1</sup>Ankylosing Spondylitis : e.g., morning stiffness, improvement with exercise, pain at night, uveitis. Multiple Myeloma: bone pain, fever, night sweats

<sup>2</sup>CT **without** contrast

<sup>3</sup>Spinal infection: e.g., Fever, IV drug use, immunosuppression, spine surgery or spinal injection within past 3 months, hemodialysis.

<sup>4</sup>MRI **with & without** contrast for: cancer, infection, previous lumbar surgery.

<sup>5</sup>Spinal cord injury: e.g., New urinary retention, fecal incontinence, and/or saddle anesthesia, motor weakness.

<sup>6</sup>Severe neurologic deficits: e.g., Progressive motor weakness, significant motor deficits.

(Resources: <https://www.ncqa.org/hedis/measures/use-of-imaging-studies-for-low-back-pain/>  
<https://www.uptodate.com/contents/subacute-and-chronic-low-back-pain-nonpharmacologic-and-pharmacologic-treatment>)

These guidelines are for reference only for PCPs and Chiropractors, and do not override clinical decision-making.