

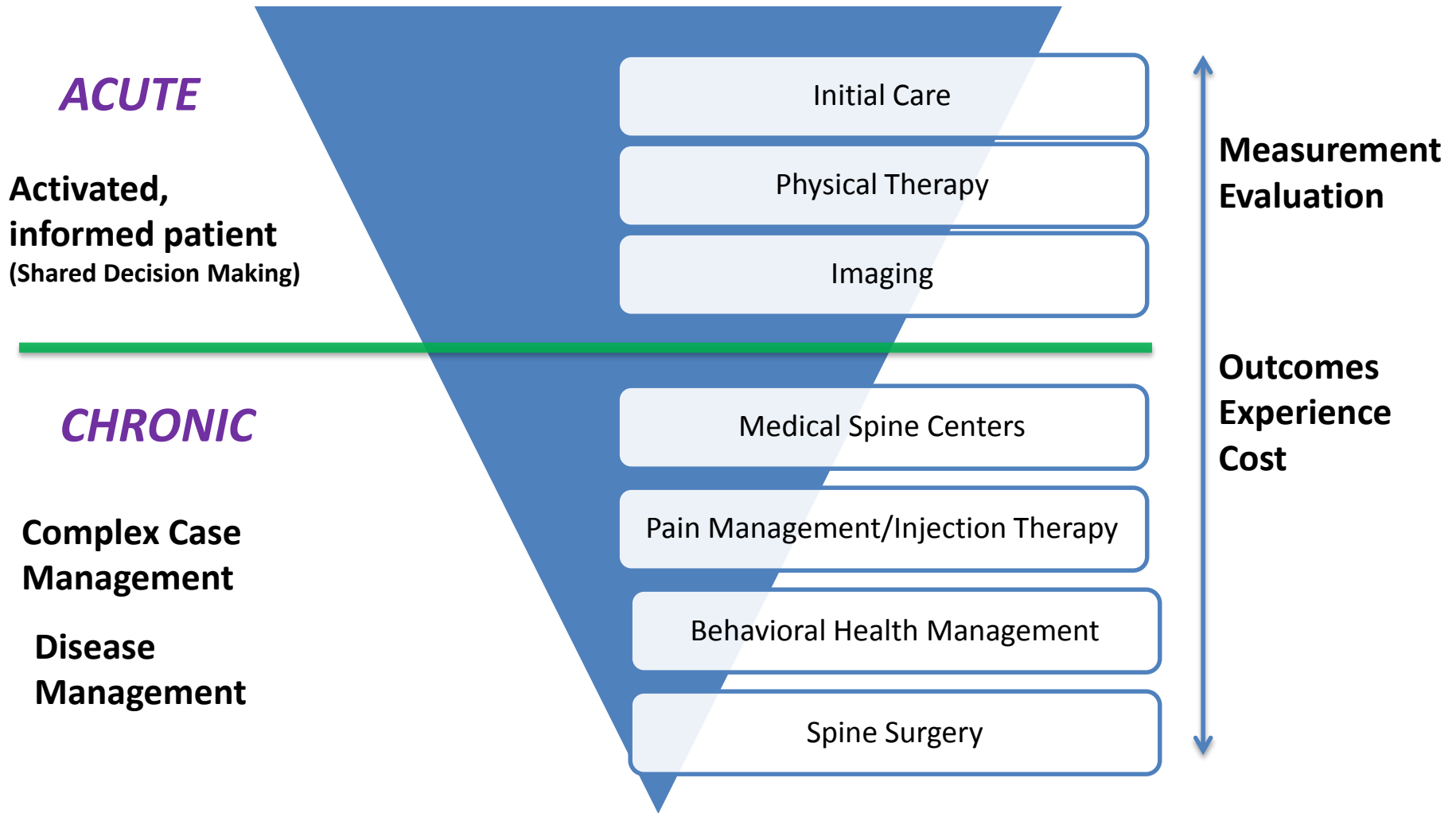


# 2012 Spine Initiative Medical Spine Centers

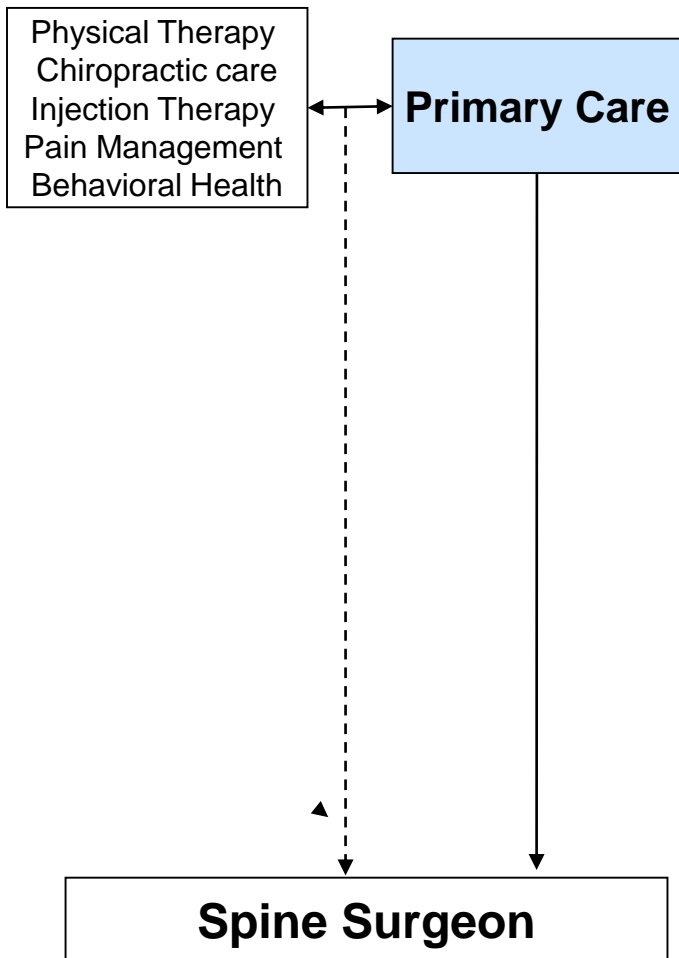


# Background

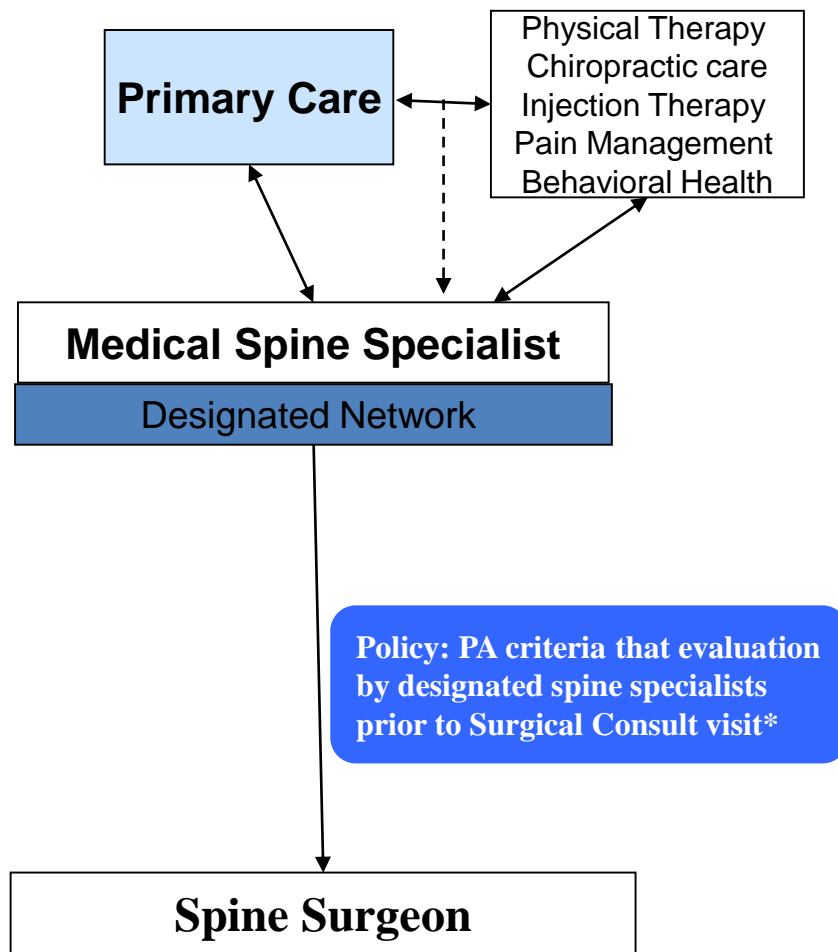
## Low Back Pain Model



## Current Patient Flow



## New Patient Flow



- Prior to any identified spine surgical consult visit, patients would need to see a medical spine specialist for evaluation.

\*Note: A by-pass process will be in place for emergency situations

# Designated Medical Spine Centers

- Why is HealthPartners Implementing a Medical Spine Center network?
  - Ensure patients with low back pain have access to a timely comprehensive evaluation and receive best care
  - Support primary care practices
  - Encourage care that supports active reconditioning
  - Provide patients with a personal decision support model regarding ongoing care
  - Aligned with ICSI's Low Back Pain Guidelines

# Designated Medical Spine Centers

- **What is a Medical Spine Center?**
  - Medical Spine Centers are clinics with medical spine specialists whose focus is on the non-surgical, comprehensive management of spine problems using a biopsychosocial active re-conditioning model.
- **What is a Medical Spine Specialist?**
  - A medical spine specialist is a clinician with a specialty in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Occupational Medicine, Sports Medicine or advanced extensive training in spine care.

# Criteria

- A biopsychosocial active reconditioning model
- Evidence based practices as demonstrated by use of ICSI guidelines and written, evidence-driven protocols
- Access standards
- Multi-disciplinary care treatment method
  - Physical Therapists with advanced certification in spine care
  - Care coordination for an integrated approach
  - Psychologist available with training and experience treating chronic pain patients
  - Willingness to develop a formal shared decision making process

# The Process

- Primary Care or Referring Physician informs patient that *“I would like you to see a spine specialist before you see the surgeon. This is an Opportunity to have a comprehensive look at your back pain from a specialist who can help you & me review all your treatment options.”*
- Medical Spine Specialist (MSS) does evaluation and recommends treatment plan
  - Member can still decide to see a surgeon, even if not recommended by the MSS
  - MSS provides visit summary notes to referring MD and the surgeon (if appropriate)
- Surgeon requests the authorization for the visit
  - Requests notes from MSC visit
  - Financially responsible for the visit if they don't get prior authorization
  - Submits notes from MSC visit with any prior authorization request for surgery

# Bypass – Emergent Conditions

- If the referring physician determines that the patient has:
  - A progressive neurological deficit
  - Any red flag condition
    - Cancer
    - Trauma
    - Infection
  - Or an urgent or emergent need
    - Emergency Room
    - Inpatient setting

A bypass process is in place



# MSC Administrative Requirements

- **Staff education**
  - Aware of timely access issues, consent form, visit summary note requirement
- **Consent form**
  - All patients must sign
  - Allows sharing of visit summary notes with
    - the spine surgeon (if known or upon request if not known)
- **Visit summary**
  - To be shared with primary care physician and surgeon (if known) within four working days
- **Outcome reporting**
  - To be determined

# Designated Medical Spine Centers

- Who does this apply to?
  - Members in MN, Western WI & Eastern ND & SD
  - Does not apply to:
    - Medicare/Minnesota Senior Health Options (MSHO)
    - Worker's Comp
    - Under 18 years old
- Timing for evaluation (in person or virtual)
  - Acute Patients (*"Acute" is determined by clinician at the time of scheduling dependent on patient's condition*)
    - Two working days
  - Non-acute Patients
    - Ten working days

# Designated Medical Spine Centers

- How do members learn about an MSC?
  - Primary Care
    - Major care systems are engaged & developing programs
  - Spine Surgeons
  - Introducing the MSC in communications that are already going to members about back pain
  - Designated Medical Spine Centers webpage
- Will survey members for feedback on the process