



ISAEC Quick Stats...

Pilot days remaining: **180**

Patient referrals to date: **715**

Average wait time: **<2 weeks**

Patients needing Imaging/Specialist: **33**

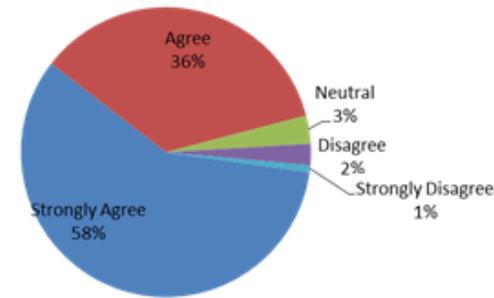
Inter-professional Spine Assessment and Education Clinics (ISAEC) Pilot

Thanks again to all who completed ISAEC's Pilot Participation Survey. We are pleased to report that we have completed the tabulation of survey responses. Here are some of the highlights:

- ISAEC has improved my comfort in managing Low Back Pain patients: **90% of respondents Strongly Agreed or Agreed**
- I am likely to refer Low Back Pain patients to ISAEC: **93% of respondents Strongly Agreed or Agreed**
- ISAEC services will likely improve care for Low Back Pain patients: **88% of respondents Strongly Agreed or Agreed**

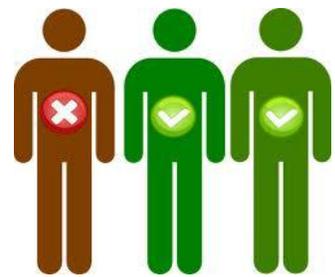
We received lots of constructive feedback about how to improve ISAEC services. We have already started to put many of your recommendations into practice. Keep an eye on the *You Asked, ISAEC Answered...* section for changes. One common point of uncertainty is ISAEC's strict patient referral eligibility criteria. Instead of a case study this month, we decided to devote the next section of the newsletter to address many of the questions raised by you and your fellow ISAEC primary care providers.

ISAEC services would be useful to all primary care providers.



(n=127 ISAEC primary care providers)

Patient Referral Eligibility Criteria



Questions?
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We would like to take this opportunity to provide clarification of ISAEC's eligibility criteria. ISAEC is an upstream, share-cared model designed to prevent or mitigate chronicity, rather than a program that actively manages patients with established chronic pain and associated concurrent mood dysfunction. Through rapid access, thorough assessment and patient education, one of the goals of the program is to decrease the prevalence of unmanageable chronic back pain. While this won't be apparent in the short term your continued support and appropriate referrals will ultimately decrease the prevalence of unmanageable chronic low back pain in your practice as well as society. To facilitate this we use specific eligibility criteria as well as strict ineligibility criteria. Below are examples of eligible ISAEC patients:

A patient who has persistent (i.e. constant) low back related symptoms (back dominant or leg dominant pain) of 6 weeks to 12 months duration or unmanageable recurrent low back related symptoms. However, patients who have had low back pain or leg dominant pain for a longer duration may also be eligible if they experience change in their function or the ability to cope with their condition. For example:

- ✓ Patients with chronic back dominant pain that becomes leg dominant.
- ✓ Patients with back or leg dominant pain that was manageable but worsens with a resultant change in their ability continue engaging in work, fitness or activities of daily living.
- ✓ Patients with long standing intermittent leg dominant pain (neurogenic claudication) resulting in a decline in their function (e.g. walking, standing).
- ✓ Patients with recurrent episodes of back pain or leg dominant pain who no longer respond to conservative management.

For a detailed list of ineligible patients please consult the ISAEC Referral Form. Unfortunately, we do not have the resources to assist in the management of patients who have established chronic pain, have already seen a specialist or are actively being treated by specialist(s). If you are uncertain whether your patient meets the eligibility criteria, please do not hesitate to contact your local ISAEC Practice Leader (<removed>, <removed> and <removed>).

You Asked, ISAEC Answered...

All ISAEC Treatment Plans and Consult Notes will be typed
Effective immediately!