

QUESTION	CAC Avg.	#	ALL Avg.	#
1. How confident are you that there is adequate published evidence percutaneous vertebroplasty improves health outcomes (symptom status, functional abilities, health related QOL) over nonsurgical management in select cases of osteoporotic vertebral compression fracture?	4.21	42	4.19	58
2. If less than intermediate confidence (< 3) is noted in question #1, how confident are you that each of the following concerns regarding percutaneous vertebroplasty has inadequate evidence?				
2a. Efficacy	1.50	2	2.20	5
2b. Safety	3.50	2	4.00	5
3. If less than intermediate confidence (< 3) is noted in question #1, how confident are you that percutaneous vertebroplasty should only be performed within a clinical trial?	N/A	0	3.33	3
4. If less than intermediate confidence (< 3) is noted in question #1, how confident are you that each of the following additional percutaneous vertebroplasty evidence is needed?				
4a. Blinded randomized trials	4.50	2	4.00	5
4b. Non-blinded randomized trials	4.00	2	2.80	5
4c. Observational trials	1.00	2	1.40	5
4d. Propensity-adjusted claims based mortality data	3.00	2	2.40	5
4e. Systematic reviews and meta-analyses	2.50	2	1.80	5
4f. Registries	4.00	2	2.80	5
5. How confident are you that there is adequate published evidence percutaneous kyphoplasty improves health outcomes (symptom status, functional abilities, health related QOL) over nonsurgical management in select cases of osteoporotic vertebral compression fracture?	4.39	41	4.43	56
6. If less than intermediate confidence (< 3) is noted in question #5, how confident are you that each of the following concerns regarding percutaneous kyphoplasty has inadequate evidence?				
6a. Efficacy	3.50	2	2.75	4
6b. Safety	4.00	2	4.00	4
7. If less than intermediate confidence (< 3) is noted in question #5, how confident are you that percutaneous kyphoplasty should only be performed within a clinical trial?	5.00	1	4.00	2
8. If less than intermediate confidence (< 3) is noted in question #5, how confident are you that each of the following additional percutaneous kyphoplasty evidence is needed?				
8a. Blinded randomized trials	5.00	1	5.00	4
8b. Non-blinded randomized trials	2.00	1	1.75	4
8c. Observational trials	1.00	1	1.50	4
8d. Propensity-adjusted claims based mortality data	1.00	1	2.25	4
8e. Systematic reviews and meta-analyses	1.00	1	2.25	4
8f. Registries	5.00	1	3.25	4
9. If at least intermediate confidence ( $\geq 3$ ) is noted in question #1 or #5, how confident are you that there is sufficient published evidence that use of percutaneous vertebral augmentation (PVA) should be limited to each of the following fracture duration?				
9a. Acute (< 6 wks.)	3.90	30	3.33	42
9b. Subacute (6-12 wks.)	3.87	30	3.38	42
9c. Chronic (> 12 wks.)	3.00	30	2.67	42
9d. Timing is secondary to radiographic features and clinical presentation	4.61	33	4.67	46
10. If at least intermediate confidence ( $\geq 3$ ) is noted in question #1 or #5, how confident are you that there is adequate published evidence each of the following nonsurgical management intervals be attempted, without success, before PVA?				
10a. 0 days	3.03	30	2.93	43
10b. 1-7 days	3.13	31	2.80	44
10c. 1-3 weeks	3.07	30	2.70	43
10d. 3-6 weeks	3.03	30	2.70	43
10e. > 6 weeks	2.79	28	2.51	41
11. How confident are you that there is adequate published evidence that each of the following nonsurgical managements should be attempted?				
11a. Bed rest	2.23	39	2.15	53
11b. Non-opioid analgesics	3.11	38	3.04	52
11c. Opioid analgesics	2.38	37	2.22	51
11d. Bracing	2.58	38	2.40	52
11e. Physical therapy	2.19	37	2.08	51
11f. Periosteal infiltration of local anesthetic on the pedicle	2.00	37	1.94	51
11g. Anti-osteoporosis therapy	3.21	38	3.63	52
12. How confident are you that there is sufficient published evidence that each of the below is a reliable, valid and meaningful indicator of failed nonsurgical management?				
12a. Pain precluding ambulation	4.47	36	4.46	52
12b. Pain precluding physical therapy	4.09	35	4.10	51
12c. Unacceptable side effects from nonsurgical management	4.33	36	4.38	52
12d. Progression of vertebral height loss	4.26	35	4.04	51
12e. Persistence of at least moderate pain (VAS $\geq 5$ )	4.47	36	4.40	52
12f. Worsening kyphosis	4.14	36	4.04	52
13. How confident are you that each of the below specialists should be involved in the decision to use vertebral augmentation?				
13a. Radiologist	4.05	37	3.91	53
13b. Neurologist	2.59	37	2.57	53
13c. Spine surgeon	4.37	38	4.19	54
13d. Referring physician	3.00	37	3.21	53
13e. Treating physician only	3.59	37	3.64	53
14. How confident are you that there is adequate published evidence these conclusions are generalizable to the Medicare patient population?	4.43	30	4.38	42