

TABLE E-1 Glossary of Terms and Acronyms

HRQOL	Health-related quality of life—refers to a person’s perception of his or her physical and mental health; used to determine effects of an illness or intervention on a person’s daily life; based on the World Health Organization (WHO) definition of health as a complete state of physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely an absence of disease and/or infirmity
MCID	Minimum clinically important difference—the smallest change in HRQOL that is important to patients
SCB	Substantial clinical benefit—magnitude of HRQOL improvement that a patient recognizes as a substantial benefit
GAR	Global Assessment Rating—general assessment of change in health
ROC	Receiver-operating characteristic analysis—ROC analysis evaluates the predictive value of a given measurement by calculating the sensitivity and specificity of all possible cut-off points to discriminate between two populations. A ROC curve is a plot of the sensitivity versus 1 minus the specificity of each of the cutoff points.
AUC	Area under the curve—the area under the ROC curve is a measure of the diagnostic power of a given measurement. High values (near 1.0) and low values (near 0.0) indicate a strong diagnostic tool, and values near 0.5 indicate that the measurement is no more predictive of the outcome than a coin flip.
SF-36 PCS	Short Form-36 physical composite score—a thirty-six-item self-administered short-form health status survey developed for the Medical Outcomes Study that evaluates physical function, social function, limitation in role due to physical health, limitation in role due to mental health, vitality, bodily pain, and general health. Two composite scores can be calculated: a physical composite summary score (PCS) and a mental composite summary score (MCS). With use of norm-based scoring, all domains scales have a mean of 50 and a standard deviation of 10 based on the general 1998 U.S. population. Thus, scores of <50 fall below the general population mean.
ODI	Oswestry Disability Index—self-administered questionnaire measuring “back-specific function” on a ten-item scale with six response categories each. Each item scores from 0 to 5, which is transformed into a 0 to 100 scale. Patients with scores of 0 to 20 have minimal disability, those with scores of 21 to 40 have moderate disability, those with scores of 41 to 60 have severe disability, those with scores of 61 to 80 are crippled, and those with scores of 81 to 100 are confined to bed or are exaggerating their symptoms.