

## THE SPINE—Continued

	Rating
<p><b>Note (5):</b> For VA compensation purposes, unfavorable ankylosis is a condition in which the entire cervical spine, the entire thoracolumbar spine, or the entire spine is fixed in flexion or extension, and the ankylosis results in one or more of the following: difficulty walking because of a limited line of vision; restricted opening of the mouth and chewing; breathing limited to diaphragmatic respiration; gastrointestinal symptoms due to pressure of the costal margin on the abdomen; dyspnea or dysphagia; atlantoaxial or cervical subluxation or dislocation; or neurologic symptoms due to nerve root stretching. Fixation of a spinal segment in neutral position (zero degrees) always represents favorable ankylosis.</p> <p><b>Note (6):</b> Separately evaluate disability of the thoracolumbar and cervical spine segments, except when there is unfavorable ankylosis of both segments, which will be rated as a single disability.</p> <p>5235 Vertebral fracture or dislocation</p> <p>5236 Sacroiliac injury and weakness</p> <p>5237 Lumbosacral or cervical strain</p> <p>5238 Spinal stenosis</p> <p>5239 Spondylolisthesis or segmental instability</p> <p>5240 Ankylosing spondylitis</p> <p>5241 Spinal fusion</p> <p>5242 Degenerative arthritis of the spine (see also diagnostic code 5003)</p> <p>5243 Intervertebral disc syndrome</p> <p>Evaluate intervertebral disc syndrome (preoperatively or postoperatively) either under the General Rating Formula for Diseases and Injuries of the Spine or under the Formula for Rating Intervertebral Disc Syndrome Based on Incapacitating Episodes, whichever method results in the higher evaluation when all disabilities are combined under § 4.25.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Formula for Rating Intervertebral Disc Syndrome Based on Incapacitating Episodes</b></p> <p>With incapacitating episodes having a total duration of at least 6 weeks during the past 12 months ..... 60</p> <p>With incapacitating episodes having a total duration of at least 4 weeks but less than 6 weeks during the past 12 months ..... 40</p> <p>With incapacitating episodes having a total duration of at least 2 weeks but less than 4 weeks during the past 12 months ..... 20</p> <p>With incapacitating episodes having a total duration of at least one week but less than 2 weeks during the past 12 months ..... 10</p>	