When performing a Lumbar Spine MRI Exam please acquire a T1 Sagittal Scout image where the vertebral bodies from C2 through L1 can be easily seen and counted by the Radiologist. Performing this additional scout image allows for accurate identification of the Lumbar vertebrae especially when L5 or S1 has a transitional appearance. This accurate identification is very important when patients are having interventional or surgical procedures of the Lumbar Spine. Having this additional scout will help ensure that a patient is not operated on at an incorrect level.

A. The patient must be scanned head first in order to acquire this additional scout image.
B. The Sagittal Cervical-Thoracic Spine scout must include skull base through L1 so that it overlaps with the T1 Sagittal series of the Lumbar Spine. With combined series including from skull base through L5-S1.
C. If scanning on a Siemens Espree magnet, acquire the C-T Spine Sagittal scout in 2 sections. Compose those two sections together and send only the resulting composed image to Synapse.
D. The scout images should be T1 weighted.
E. Use an anterior sat band to improve the image quality.
F. Acquire the scout images at a 256 matrix. High resolution images are not wanted by the Radiologists.
G. Do not include the entire brain in the C-T Spine scout images.
H. Use a high bandwidth (around 400) on Siemens scanners to reduce the artifact at the edges of the FOV.
I. Send, to Synapse, all or the necessary number of sequences and slices for counting the vertebrae.
J. If the scout images are unable to be obtained, document the reason why in the tech notes.
The image on this page shows the C-T Spine Sagittal scout, the Lumbar Spine T1 Sagittal, and the PD Axial sequence. Note how the reference line for Axial image number 44 displays on both Sagittal images. This is what makes accurate counting of the vertebrae possible.
If scanning on a Siemens Symphony, place a marker at the T12 level. This marker must be seen on both the C-T Spine Sagittal scout and the Sagittal Lumbar Spine image. This is needed since the Axial images acquired on those scanners will not reference on Sagittal images scanned at a different table location.

The reference line for image 40 of the Axial series only displays on the T1 Sagittal image that was acquired at the same table location. The presence of the marker on both Sagittal images makes the accurate counting of the vertebrae possible.