

How to obtain a Joint Assessor Certificate

A) Investigator's meeting

- At an investigators' meeting, there will be an introductory presentation discussing the importance of the joint exam in the trial, its role in the JIA Core Set of Outcome Measures (the ACR Pediatric 30), and the parameters and forms used.
- This will be followed by a hands-on demonstration of the joint exam on children with active JIA by experienced pediatric rheumatologists.
- Then, each candidate assessor will independently perform a joint exam on at **least 2 or, preferably 3** JIA patients eligible for the study, recording their findings on the case report forms (CRFs) used in the trial. The subject's numeric identifier (please do not write the name and/or surname of the subject, e.g. TEST001) and the assessor's name must be indicated on each form.
- The CRFs from the exams on these subjects should be sent to Fondazione PRINTO/PRCSG coordinating centres at: **info@fondazione-printo.it**.

B) On-site evaluation WITH a certified joint assessor

Assessment of potential joint assessors can be performed in one of the following circumstances: a) a previously approved joint assessor is part of the clinical staff or faculty at a particular site and can provide an onsite workshop for other potential joint assessors, b) an approved joint assessor from another site can travel to the candidate centre and provide the workshop on site, c) the potential joint assessor can travel to the site of another approved joint assessor and perform the evaluation there.

- At the site, a previously approved joint assessor and all the other potential joint assessors should each independently examine **the same child** with active JIA. Each examiner should record their findings on the joint exam case report forms (CRF).
- After all participants have completed their assessments, the group should meet to share results: if there are variation of findings, the physical exams should be repeated to increase agreement.
The case report forms from this training exam **will not be submitted for scoring**.
- Following this training, the approved joint assessor and the potential joint assessors should each independently evaluate **at least 2 children** with active JIA and record their findings on the joint exam CRFs. On each case report form page, both an identifier for the subject (please do not write the name and/or surname of the subject, e.g. TEST001) and the name of the assessor should be indicated.
- **The CRFs from the exams on these subjects are to be sent to Fondazione PRINTO/PRCSG coordinating centres at: info@fondazione-printo.it.**

The forms will be evaluated. If substantial variations are found, assessors will be asked to undergo additional training.

Individuals who complete the joint assessor evaluation will receive the certificate. This certification information will be shared with sponsors to identify qualified assessors for future JIA studies.

C) On-site evaluation WITHOUT a certified joint assessor

Assessment of potential joint assessors should be conducted with a certified joint assessor if possible. However, in circumstances when a certified joint assessor is not available, please proceed as follows:

- **Training:** at the site, **at least two potential joint assessors** should **independently evaluate the same child with active JIA** as a practice test. Each examiner records their findings on the joint exam case report forms (CRF).
- After all participants have completed their assessments, the group meet to share results: if there are variation of findings, the physical exams should be repeated to increase agreement.

The case report forms from this training session **will not be submitted for scoring**.

- Following this training, the potential joint assessors should each independently evaluate **3 children** with active JIA and record their findings on joint exam case report forms (CRF). On each case report form page, both an identifier for the subject (please do not write the name and/or surname of the subject, e.g. TEST001) and the name of the assessor should be indicated.
- **The CRFs from the exams on these subjects should be sent to Fondazione PRINTO/PRCSG coordinating centres at: info@fondazione-printo.it.**

The forms will be evaluated. If substantial variations are found, assessors will be asked to undergo additional training.

Individuals who complete the joint assessor evaluation will receive the certificate. This certification information will be shared with sponsors to identify qualified assessors for future JIA studies.

To receive further information contact Fondazione PRINTO Staff at info@fondazione-printo.it or PRCSG at "prcsg" <prcsg@cchmc.org>