
**OPTIMISATION OF RHEUMATIC DISEASE ASSESSMENTS
IN CLINICAL TRIALS, CLINICAL CARE AND LONG-TERM
DATABASES**

Clinical and Experimental Rheumatology

Guest editors

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Target Audience

Rheumatologists

Course Description

This supplement for the journal *Clinical and Experimental Rheumatology* is the 15th in an annual series entitled 'Contemporary Topics in Rheumatic Diseases'.

Statement of Need

Assessment of rheumatic diseases is more complicated than many common chronic diseases such as hypertension, hyperlipidemia, diabetes and osteoporosis. The absence of a single gold standard measure has been addressed in rheumatic diseases by development of composite indices to assess and estimate changes in patient status. Formal indices have been developed for rheumatoid arthritis, systemic lupus erythematosus, psoriatic arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis, vasculitis, and other rheumatic diseases, which generally include 3 types of measures: from a patient history in the format of a patient self-report questionnaire; physical examination; and laboratory tests. The RA indices reflect patient history and physical examination in contrast to gold standard biomarkers, which are most prominent in clinical decisions in most of the other chronic diseases. Most rheumatology care is conducted without quantitative measures, although use of quantitative measures has been shown to improve care and outcomes.

Educational Objectives

At the conclusion of this activity, participants should be able to:

- recognise the indices that are available for different rheumatic diseases, which might be applicable in usual care
- recognise how measures and indices might be improved for clinical trials in rheumatic diseases
- recognise how measures and indices might be improved for routine clinical care of rheumatic diseases
- characterise features of long-term databases that might be emulated by different databases in different clinical settings to improve the long-term databases

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The NYU Post-Graduate Medical School designates this enduring material for a maximum of 10 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™*. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Method of Participation

To receive up to 10 CME credits, read this supplement, which should take 10 hours of your time, complete the evaluation and post-test and submit to the NYU Post-Graduate Medical School (instructions enclosed).

A minimum passing grade of 70% is required.

This activity is valid for credit from November 14, 2014 through January 13, 2015.

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