

## **The EULAR points to consider for health professionals undertaking musculoskeletal ultrasound for rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases (RMDs)**

### **Research questions to guide the systematic literature review:**

#### **Role of health professionals using ultrasound**

1. What is the added value of musculoskeletal ultrasound for health professionals in assessing, monitoring and managing patients with RMDs?
2. Does musculoskeletal ultrasound have additional value in the patient- health professional relationship?
3. Can health professionals use musculoskeletal ultrasound to target interventions?
4. Which specific musculoskeletal ultrasound tasks can only be performed by rheumatologists?
5. What is the most efficient point of care management of a health professional ultrasonographer in a routine outpatient setting?
6. Is performing musculoskeletal ultrasound feasible for health professionals in daily practice?

#### **Ultrasound training**

7. What is the required clinical level for a health professional to undertake musculoskeletal ultrasound in RMDs?
8. What training and knowledge is required for health professionals to reach basic competencies?
9. Should there be dedicated/focused courses/learning materials for different health professionals groups?
10. Is there any difference in minimum requirements for performing musculoskeletal ultrasound in RMDs between rheumatologists and non-medical health professionals? If so what is the distinction based on?
11. What training is required by the trainers/mentors to ensure competency in training/mentoring health professionals to undertake musculoskeletal ultrasound?

#### **Maintaining competency**

12. Do health professionals require supervision when performing musculoskeletal ultrasound?
13. How will competency be measured for health professionals undertaking musculoskeletal ultrasound?
14. Should health professionals undertake regular competency assessment in using musculoskeletal ultrasound for RMDs?