

EASO Collaborating Centres for Obesity Management (COMs): Paediatric Section Application Form

The Concept

Obesity is recognised as a global epidemic and the most prevalent metabolic disease world-wide. However, specialised obesity services are not widely available in Europe and obesity care can therefore vary enormously across European regions. In response to this situation, EASO has developed a network of accredited specialised obesity centres, where the quality and efficacy of the care offered to patients are of the highest standards. Under the EASO Collaborating Centres for Obesity Management (COM) scheme, centres will be accredited in accordance with accepted European and academic guidelines. Accreditation will be granted for a three year period, after which time re-assessment will be undertaken. The COMs network is organised into two sections, one for adult centres and one for paediatric centres.

For further information, please refer to the EASO COM Criteria Paper ([Obes Facts 2011;4:329–333](#)) or visit www.easo.org

Who Should Apply?

The EASO COM network will include university, public and private clinics. Each centre must comply with clearly defined requirements and work in close collaboration for the better management of all obese patients. Each accredited centre must ensure that the obese and overweight patient is managed by a holistic team of specialists and will receive comprehensive state-of-the-art clinical care. Furthermore, the participating centres, under the umbrella of EASO, will work closely for quality control, data collection and analysis, as well as education and research for the advancement of obesity care and obesity science.

Each centre will be expected to:

- Implement state-of-the art evidence-based care for obese patients
- Monitor all obesity- related medical conditions and risk factors
- Provide high quality patient and public information
- Improve access to care pathways by optimizing referral processes and developing close working between levels of care
- Develop comprehensive multidisciplinary local collaboration
- Facilitate, and empower patients to make healthy lifestyle changes: develop therapeutic education
- Educate staff about treating patients with obesity
- Encourage development of and support Patient Associations, by sharing experience and expertise
- Offer or collaborate with preventive care services
- Promote obesity related knowledge and awareness among the public and health care providers
- Improve the collaboration interface between clinical researchers and scientists
- Integrate health care, teaching and research
- Facilitate clinical research projects

Why Should You Apply?

Each member centre will be accredited, for a three year period, as having met comprehensive criteria as set out by EASO and according to recognised European management guidelines – and will therefore be recognised as a leading obesity management centre in Europe. Accredited centres will have the opportunity to:

- contribute to the development of EASO pan-European protocols for the evaluation of obese patients
- contribute to the development of consensus statements/guidelines on specialised aspects of obesity management
- contribute to obesity education across Europe
- participate in an EASO led pan-European scientific/clinical exchange programme
- participate in EASO facilitated Clinical Trials and Pilot Studies
- participate in EASO coordinated research projects
- participate in COM ‘Summit Meetings’ at each ECO (European Congress on Obesity)
- access and contribute to an EASO pan-European system of data collection and analysis
- access a web-based COM community where each centre can post job vacancies and highlight the key capabilities and features of the centre

How Can You Apply?

All interested centres are required to complete the comprehensive application form below, which will be assessed by the EASO COTF (Childhood Obesity Task Force) – applications will be assessed twice per year. Thereafter, feedback will be given and where necessary assessment site visits will be conducted. No application fee will be charged. However, for those centres that require an assessment site visit, the applicant centre will be expected to cover the travel and accommodation costs of a maximum of two EASO COTF members.

EASO COM Application Form

Name of Institution:	
Address:	
Town/City:	
Country:	
Website:	
Lead Contact:	
Position of Lead Contact:	
Member of EASO National Association:	
Telephone:	
Fax:	
Email:	
Signature of Lead Contact:	
Date of Submission:	

EASO COM Requirements		
General Requirements		
Patients: Outline patient profile and selection procedure.	Number of obese children/adolescents seen per annum	
	Number of new obese children/adolescents seen per annum	
	Number of severely obese patients (BMI > 40 in adults and BMI>99 th percentile in children) per annum	
	Specific cases: rare diseases	
Facility Location: Outline facilities and geographical distribution of sites.	Is the facility a Centre, Clinic or Unit?	
	-within a university hospital	
	-within a general hospital	
	-within a larger department (internal medicine, endocrinology...) If yes, give details.	
	Number of beds dedicated to obesity, if needed in the Pediatric Units	
	Number of weekly clinics dedicated to obesity	
	Outline contacts with team	
Staff Specifications: Give overview of all staff involved in the delivery of the Obesity Management service. Are all staff members of the relevant EASO National Association?	Number of MDs in the dept. involved in obesity management	
	Number staff with specialist certification in childhood obesity management (give details of the certification)	
	Number of Dieticians	
	Number of Psychologists	
	Number of Physical educators	
	Number of Physiotherapists	
	Number of Nurses	
Links to primary care physicians (GPs/paediatricians/child health care): Outline Patient Pathway System.	First/second/third referral	
Links to other Medical Services and Facilities: Outline all relevant systems and structured links.		

EASO COM Requirements: Equipment and Tools Appropriate for Obese Patients

Tool (Essential)	(✓)	Comment
Appropriate cuffs for blood pressure measurement (Paediatric size if needed)		
Scales with adequate weight capacity (> 200 kg)		
Armless chairs, high firm sofas in waiting rooms		
Wide examination tables		
Beds for severely obese patients >200kg		
Stretchers adapted to very obese persons		
Sleep apnoea monitors on site or at affiliated facilities		
Food frequency questionnaire and/or dietary intake recording and assessment		
Questionnaires concerning depression, eating attitudes and disorders, physical activity, quality of life (QOL)		
Access to accredited hormonal and molecular genetics laboratories		
Access to additional relevant diagnostic procedures adapted to the very obese persons, such as:	(✓)	Comment
X-ray		
Ultrasound		
CT and NMR Scanning		
Endoscopy		
Cardiac and Pulmonary Assessment		
Nuclear Medicine		
Tool (Recommended)	(✓)	Comment
Pedometers		
Skinfold calipers		
Body composition analysis [Bio-impedance, dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry (DEXA)]		
Indirect calorimetry		
Tool (Optimal)	(✓)	Comment
Hydrodensitometry		
Air displacement plethysmography		

EASO COM Requirements	
Additional Requirements	
<p>Treatment Modalities: Outline your centre’s spectrum of clinically proven treatment options (to include the treatment of complications). For example, does your centre provide group or individual treatments, or both?</p>	
<p>Educational Tools: Outline the educational opportunities and options offered by your Institution.</p>	
<p>Affiliation with an accredited Bariatric Surgery Centre: Outline the scope and nature of any such affiliations.</p>	
<p>Data Collection and Management: Outline your Institution’s data collection and management systems.</p>	
<p>Education and Training and Research: Outline your Institution’s post-graduate training programmes and research capabilities/projects.</p>	

Applications will be evaluated twice per year. This form should be completed in full and returned to the EASO Secretariat at enquiries@easo.org.