



Beginner & Advanced Pediatric Hemophilia Early Arthropathy Detection and Ultrasound (HEAD-US) Courses Letter of Support Guidance

Dear HTC Director/Supervisor,

We are delighted to introduce the **Pediatric Hemophilia Early Arthropathy Detection and Ultrasound (HEAD-US) Courses**, offered through the Partners in Bleeding Disorders Education Program and Innovative Hematology/Indiana Hemophilia and Thrombosis Center. This specialized training experience is led by Drs. Carlo Martinoli, Nihal Bakeer, and Kyle Davis, along with the highly experienced physical therapists (Stacie Akins, Tiffany Kaltenmark, Fred Loeffler, Melissa Barnes) at Innovative Hematology.

Innovative Hematology, Inc. (IHI) is a nonprofit hematology organization based in Indianapolis, Indiana, dedicated to comprehensive care for people with blood disorders. For more than 25 years, it has provided access to specialized, patient-centered hematology services. Our physicians and physical therapists have been leaders in the field of musculoskeletal ultrasound and its use for our patients with bleeding disorders.

The Beginner Pediatric HEAD-US course will be held on August 3-5, 2026.

- Designed for physical therapists, physicians, and advanced practice providers who care for pediatric bleeding disorder patients seeking to develop foundational skills in ultrasound with a focus on musculoskeletal assessment and joint pathology using the Hemophilia Early Arthropathy Detection with Ultrasound (HEAD-US) protocol.

The Advanced Pediatric HEAD-US course will be held on August 6-7, 2026.

- Designed for physical therapists, physicians, and advanced practice providers with prior ultrasound experience seeking to enhance their skills in comprehensive pediatric joint assessment, muscle injury evaluation, and scoring of hemophilic arthropathy using the Hemophilic Arthropathy Early Detection with Ultrasound (HEAD-US) protocol.

We invite you to nominate physical therapists, physicians, and advanced practice providers from your Hemophilia Treatment Center (HTC) to participate in either of these programs. Additional details about each course—and guidance on selecting the best fit for you or your staff—can be found at PartnersPRN.org.

While each candidate's individual application is a key factor in determining eligibility, your insight into their experience and the potential value of this training will help the program Faculty as they select participants from a highly qualified applicant pool.

Please provide a Letter of Support for the applicant that describes:

- Your professional relationship with the applicant; including the length of time you have worked together
- The applicant's experience with musculoskeletal ultrasound for the care of patients with bleeding disorders/hemophilia



- The type of ultrasound equipment available at your center and how easily accessible it is to the applicant; along with the estimated time per month the applicant is available for hands-on scanning
- Description of the applicant's dedicated time to perform musculoskeletal ultrasound, along with any opportunities for MSKUS scanning within clinic, comprehensive care clinic visits, unscheduled visits, or in relation to any acute concerns with patients
- Anything else from your perspective on how this course – either Beginner or Advanced offering – may support the applicant to further strengthen their position at the HTC

The Letter of Support is a required part of a candidate's application to the program. **The applicant will need to upload your Letter of Support (along with their CV/resume) within their application prior to the application deadline of April 24, 2026 by 11:59 pm Eastern.**

Thank you for your support. Should you have any questions, please reach out to partners@inheme.org.

Kind regards,

Partners in Bleeding Disorders Education Program