

July 20, 2015

Dear Program Directors, Chairs, or program contacts:

Please distribute the following announcement from the *American Journal of Occupational Therapy* to your faculty:

The *American Journal of Occupational Therapy (AJOT)*, in collaboration with more than 25 rehabilitation publications, is adopting a new policy beginning January 1, 2016. Clinical trials that are the subject of manuscripts submitted to *AJOT* must be registered with <https://clinicaltrials.gov/> (or, for non-U.S. researchers, a similar public clinical trials registry). All trials commencing participant recruitment on or after January 1, 2016, should be registered prospectively (i.e., before recruiting participants). Trials that started or finished recruitment before January 1, 2016, but are the subject of manuscripts submitted on or after that date must be retrospectively registered.

The trial registration website address and trial registration number must be included in the final, unmasked manuscript in the Acknowledgments section (see the *AJOT* author guidelines in the supplement to the November/December 2015 issue).

AJOT uses the definition of clinical trial from Clinicaltrials.gov (<https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/about-studies/glossary#C>):

A [clinical trial is a] research study using human subjects to evaluate biomedical or health-related outcomes. Two types of clinical studies are interventional studies (or clinical trials) and observational studies. An interventional study is “a clinical study in which participants are assigned to receive one or more interventions (or no intervention) so that researchers can evaluate the effects of the interventions on biomedical or health-related outcomes. The assignments are determined by the study protocol. Participants may receive diagnostic, therapeutic, or other types of interventions.” An observational study is “a clinical study in which participants identified as belonging to study groups are assessed for biomedical or health outcomes. Participants may receive diagnostic, therapeutic, or other types of interventions, but the investigator does not assign participants to specific interventions.”

Researchers with questions about this policy should feel free to contact Lorie Richards, *AJOT* Editor-in-Chief, at ajoteditor@aota.org.