NIH Stroke Scale Exam Fact Sheet

National Stroke Association provides an NIH Stroke Scale (NIHSS) exam scoring and registration service for medical professionals. The service, as described below, is intended to provide organizations that are interested in NIH Stroke Scale certification for their professionals a means to take the exam and have the exam scored by a neutral third party.

National Stroke Association NIH Stroke Scale Exam, Scoring & Registration

The service includes:
- Proctor Instruction
- Exam processing within 5 business days
- Exam transmittal form
- Confirmation letter with exam score
- Material references
- Passing Certificate if applicable
- Exam in scannable format
- Class Roster
- Registration into National Stroke Association NIH Stroke Scale database

National Stroke Association recommends adherence to NIH NINDS guidelines for NIH Stroke Scale examination and scoring. National Stroke Association scores the NIH Stroke Scale exams as documented by the NIH NINDS t-PA Stroke Trial Study Group. National Stroke Association instructs individuals who would like to take the exam independently to identify their own proctor for examination purposes.

Order Information

The fee for this service is $25.00 per exam plus shipping. All fees must be paid in full prior to exam delivery. When placing your order, please specify the exact quantity of NIHSS exams you require. To place your order, complete the NIHSS Order Form and fax or mail to:

National Stroke Association
NIHSS Department
9707 E. Easter Lane
Centennial, CO 80112
Fax: 303-649-1328

National Stroke Association Stroke Center Network (SCN) members may order copies of the exam at no charge, which includes scoring and certificates of completion. Nonmembers pay $25 per exam. For more information on how to become an SCN member, contact Susan Baker sbaker@stroke.org or 303-754-0934.
NIH Stroke Scale DVDs

To order the NIH Stroke Scale DVDs, please contact:

National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS)
1-800-352-9424 or www.ninds.nih.gov

The two DVD set cost $50. The DVD includes:

- Detailed instruction on each scale to teach you how to administer the NIH Stroke Scale
- Two demonstration cases to test your skill
- Three full certification sets of six patients each that allows you to score patients and submit your answers to an accrediting organization for certification
- An introduction and commentary from leading stroke experts that provide insight on the significance of the NIH Stroke Scale

Upon placing your order, you will receive the DVD and supporting materials. National Stroke Association recommends that the Exam Proctor have all of these contents available for easy reference at the time of the exam(s). Pictures may be useful for examinee reference during portions of the exams(s). Exam answers should be kept blinded.

Currently there are no standards in place as to how often an individual needs to re-certify for the NIH Stroke Scale. Individual organizations/hospital determines their own protocol on certification standards. The NINDS t-PA Study Trial Group initially certified their stroke trial investigators with the First Certification Tape (when tapes were available) and re-certified using the Second Certification Tape six months later. The National Stroke Association recommends certification every 2 years unless a hospital requires testing yearly. The average re-certification is 2 years.