

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs) RELATED TO THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE GMFM-88 & GMFM-66

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## FAQs relating to the differences between the GMFM-88 and the GMFM-66:

### **Q. What are the differences between the GMFM-88 and the GMFM-66?**

A. The GMFM-88 is the original version of the Gross Motor Function Measure. It has 88 items that are grouped (for ease of clinical administration) into five dimensions. Scoring is done by calculating a percent score for each of the dimensions and an overall score averaging the five dimension scores. It has been traditionally assumed that a change score of 'X' units (%) over time had the same meaning across the whole GMFM-88.

The GMFM-66 uses 66 of the original 88 items, assessed and scored in the same way as the GMFM-88, with the exception that on the GMFM-66, one has the option of scoring "not tested". Apart from the fact of being somewhat shorter, the major difference between the two measures concerns the 'scaling' of the GMFM-66. Using a method of scaling called Rasch ('item response theory') analysis, it has become possible to describe the order of difficulty of all 66 GMFM items; to create an 'item map' that displays the relative level of difficulty of each step of each item; and to provide an 'interval-level' measure. This means that a change of 'X' points on the GMFM-66 has the same meaning anywhere on the scale – something that is not true with the GMFM-88. From a clinical perspective it is possible to identify relatively easier and more difficult 'next steps' for any child whose gross motor function has been assessed with the GMFM-66.