

influence pain. The child, parent, and physician each complete the form separately.

## Chronic and Recurrent Pain Assessment

Pain that persists for 3 months or more or beyond the expected period of healing is defined as **chronic pain**. Complex regional pain syndrome and chronic daily headache are the most common types of chronic pain conditions in children. Pain that is episodic and recurs is defined as **recurrent pain**—the time frame within which episodes of pain recurs every 3 months or more frequently. Recurrent pain syndromes in children include migraine headache, episodic sickle cell pain, recurrent abdominal pain (RAP), and recurrent limb pain (see [Research Focus](#) box).

### Research Focus

#### Pain in School-Age Children

Van Dijk, [McGrath, Pickett, et al \(2006\)](#) reported that 57% of school-age children have at least one recurrent pain (headaches, stomach pains, growing pains) and at least 6% have one or more chronic pain episodes (disease related, back pain).

Chronic or recurrent pain adversely affects the psychosocial and physical well-being of children. The domains for the assessment of chronic or recurrent pain are the same for acute pain (pain intensity, global judgment of satisfaction with treatment, symptoms and adverse events, physical functioning, emotional functioning, economic factors), plus two additional domains: role functioning and sleep. Because the time course of chronic or recurrent pain is different from that of acute pain, measures used to assess chronic pain often evaluate the symptom over time.

A systematic review of treatment for functional abdominal pain disorders found no evidence to support pharmacologic therapy ([Kortnerink, Rutten, Venmans, et al, 2015](#)).

For children and adolescents with chronic pain, a measure such as the Functional Disability Inventory (FDI) ([Walker and Greene, 1991](#)) provides a more comprehensive evaluation of the influence of