

## Curriculum & Regulations for Diploma in Pain Medicine

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These Regulations are also available on the College website  
<http://www.anaesthesia.ie>

**Further Application Forms for examinations can be obtained from**

Examinations Office, College of Anaesthetists of Ireland  
22 Merrion Square North, Dublin 2, Ireland.

Examinations Telephone:

00 353 1 661 4412

Examinations Fax:

00 353 1 265 0699

Examinations Email:

[exams@coa.ie](mailto:exams@coa.ie)

## INTRODUCTION

This document provides information regarding training, curriculum and exam regulations for the Diploma in Pain Medicine of the College of Anaesthetists of Ireland.

These regulations govern the content and conduct of the examination leading to the award of the Diploma in Pain Medicine. They specify the requirements which must be satisfied before a candidate is eligible to apply to take the examination. They also specify the procedure to be followed in order to apply, limit the number of attempts and provide guidance in the event of failure. They describe the procedure for making representations and provide sanctions for infringements.

### IMPLEMENTATION

1. These regulations will come into force on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2005, and will be valid for 2 years unless College Council decrees otherwise.

### EXAMINATION

2.
  - (a) The Examination for the Diploma in Pain Medicine of the College of Anaesthetists of Ireland will be completed in one sitting.
  - (b) Normally there will be one sitting of the Examination in each academic year. The Council may at any time decide, subject to adequate notice, to adjust the number of sittings of the examination in any year.

### ELIGIBILITY

3. An individual is eligible to enter for the Pain Medicine Diploma who:
  - (a) Has, or is eligible for, full or limited registration with the Medical Council of Ireland or the General Medical Council (UK).
  - (b) Has passed the Fellowship examination of the College of Anaesthetists of Ireland/Royal College of Anaesthetists (UK)/or equivalent or a Fellowship/ Membership examination in a relevant specialty.
  - (c) Has completed a total of 6 months training in Pain Medicine. Training can be in 2-month modules

## **Application Procedures**

4. Dates of Examinations shall be published in the Examinations Calendar of the College of Anaesthetists of Ireland and copies may be obtained from the web site and the Examinations Office, College of Anaesthetists of Ireland, 22 Merrion Square North, Dublin 2, Ireland.
5. Application forms for admission to the Examinations may be obtained from the Examinations Office. Applications must reach the Examinations Office not before the conclusion of the previous examination and not after the published closing date for the relevant sitting.
6. Application must be accompanied by the appropriate fee and any certificates.

## **Referrals and Guidance**

7. A candidate who is unsuccessful in an examination may, subject to the provisions of the regulations below, enter for the next or any subsequent sitting of that Examination. A candidate may not sit the examination on more than four occasions.

For the purpose of this Regulation, guidance may consist of:

- (i) Written communication with the candidate in which details of his/her performance may be divulged and discussed.
- (ii) Attendance at an interview arranged by the Chairman of the Examination Committee.

## **Representation and Appeals**

8. A candidate, or any person on behalf of that candidate, wishing to make representations in respect of the conduct of an examination or to appeal against any result, must address such representation or appeal to the Chairman of the Examinations Committee, in writing, before the closing date of the next sitting in that part. The College's Examination Committee will consider representations and appeals.

## **Infringements**

9. (a) Candidates are not permitted to bring any materials or information which may assist them including electronic devices,

computers and mobile telephones into the examinations. Failure to comply with these examination regulations may result in disqualification from the whole of that examination sitting.

- (b)** The College's Council may refuse to admit to an examination or proceed with the examination of any candidate who infringes any of the regulations, or who is considered by presiding examiner to be guilty of behaviour which prejudices the proper conduct and management for the examination or who has previously been found guilty of such behaviour. If, in the opinion of the Council, any examination result has been secured by cheating, deception or fraud of any kind whatsoever, the Council may nullify the result of any qualification resulting from it and withdraw the Diploma so obtained.

## APPENDIX 1

### Diploma in Pain Medicine: Structure of the Examination

There are 4 sections:

- (a) **Multiple choice questions (MCQ)** -comprising 50 questions each with 5 stems in acute, chronic and cancer pain medicine
- (b) **Short Answer Question (SAQ) paper** – 6 questions, all are compulsory, 90 minutes allowed, on basic science, principles and practice of Pain Medicine

**Please note a candidate in the Pain Diploma examination who does not attain the required standard in these written sections will not be permitted to proceed with the remaining elements of the examination.**

(c) **Viva**

The viva will have a structured format. It will be conducted over a 30-minute period with two examiners.

(d) **Clinical case**

Following 30 minutes of assessment of a patient by the candidate, two examiners will examine the candidate for a further 30 minutes.

## APPENDIX 2

### MARKING SYSTEM

A close marking system is used.

<b>A</b>	-	Outstanding
<b>B</b>	-	Pass
<b>C</b>	-	Marginal Fail
<b>D</b>	-	Veto Fail

The minimum grades necessary to pass the examination are:

**B, B, B, C**

Any candidate who obtains a D in any part of the examination will fail.

### **Appendix 3**

## **Curriculum for Pain Medicine Diploma**

The curriculum is based on the science and practice of pain medicine and should be integrated into the clinical environment. It should include the following topics:

1. Anatomy and physiology relevant to pain
2. Pathophysiology of pain
3. The epidemiology of pain
4. The psychology of pain
5. Pharmacology applied to pain medicine
6. The clinical assessment and multi-dimensional measurement of pain, disability and quality of life
7. Diagnostic aids, investigations and diagnosis
8. Ionising radiation and chemotherapy in pain medicine
9. Planning the management of the patient
10. The role of neural blockade
11. The indications for and the role of neuroablative procedures
12. The principles of stimulation produced analgesia and their applications
13. The place of drug therapy, including the management of substance abuse
14. The use of psychological methods
15. The role of surgery
16. The place of complementary medicine
17. An understanding of all aspects of terminal illness
18. The assessment and management of pain in children
19. Communication skills
20. Teaching techniques
21. The principles and ethics of pain research
22. The principles of multi-and inter-disciplinary management
23. Organisation and management of acute and chronic pain services
24. Audit and quality control in pain management
25. The basic scientific principles and molecular biology relevant to Pain Medicine

## Appendix 4

### Specialist Training in Pain Medicine

1. A candidate must have completed a minimum of 6 months training in accredited Pain Medicine training posts in order to be eligible to take the examination. The minimum continuous period that will qualify for this purpose is 2 months.
2. A major part of the 6 months must be devoted to acquiring the knowledge and skills to manage patients with chronic and cancer pain.
3. The need for continuity of training is stressed. A training programme must be organised in such a way that a broad knowledge base can be acquired.
4. Training programmes should include components from all disciplines involved in Pain Medicine.
5. Each hospital providing training in pain medicine must nominate a consultant to supervise training. This consultant must have Pain Medicine responsibilities.

**Trainees should have an understanding of the principles and experience in the practice of the majority of the following treatment modalities:**

1. A full range of peripheral nerve and plexus blocks
2. Epidural and subarachnoid injections
3. Injection into and around joints
4. Intrapleural techniques
5. Neurolytic techniques as applied to peripheral nerves in the epidural and subarachnoid spaces
6. Radiofrequency lesioning
7. Cryotherapy
8. Percutaneous techniques of sympathetic blockade
9. Intravenous regional sympathetic blocks
10. Stimulation produced analgesia
11. Relaxation techniques
12. Implantation of pumps and catheters
13. Neurosurgical procedures used in pain relief
14. Psychological approaches to pain assessment and management

The trainee should have the opportunity to implement teaching skills. Regular audit and educational meetings of the pain management service must be held. Trainees should be encouraged to participate in and organise these meetings.

Whenever possible, multidisciplinary meetings should be organised and the attendance of trainees at meetings organised by other specialties should be encouraged.

## **Appendix 5**

### **Responsibilities of Trainers**

The progress of each trainee should be subject to continuous evaluation by the trainer. Discussion is an essential part of this so that an appreciation of the training programme can be established.

Each trainer should meet formally with each trainee for whom he or she has responsibility at monthly intervals to ascertain:

1. Progress with the training programme
2. The adequacy of the available clinical practice
3. The need to plan future training

It is the duty of the trainer to act as a mentor to all trainees within his or her area of responsibility. As such, he or she should advise and counsel trainees on all aspects of their training and future aspirations.

The quality and suitability of the trainer is an important element in the success of training. It will be necessary, therefore, for trainers to maintain their own standards by Continuing Medical Education, which should be annually reported to the College of Anaesthetists of Ireland/ RCA.



## **Appendix 6**

### **Criteria for training provision in Pain Medicine**

The institution must be recognised for training towards the CST in Anaesthesia.

There must be a Pain Medicine Service within the hospital group or Trust with designated consultant sessions.

The pain service must have an adequate volume and case-mix of new patients to sustain a training programme.

Adequate allied professional and ancillary staff and resources must be available.

There must be ready access to consultation with and teaching by other specialists.

The training programme must provide the opportunity and facilities for participation in audit, research and didactic teaching related to pain medicine.

**Appendix 7**  
**Exam Application form**

# COLLEGE OF ANAESTHETISTS OF IRELAND



Staple  
photo  
here

## Diploma in Pain Medicine D.P.Med (CARCSI)

Date of intended Exam:

Have you previously APPLIED for this exam: No  Yes  If YES, candidate ID:

If you remained on a waiting list, tick No.

Date(s) of previous ATTEMPT(S):

(Month/ Year)

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Surname/ Family name

\_\_\_\_\_ (as on Medical Degree)

First Name(s)

\_\_\_\_\_

Gender Male  Female

Date of birth \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Nationality

\_\_\_\_\_

Correspondence Address

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Tel (work) \_\_\_\_\_

Tel (mobile) \_\_\_\_\_

Tel (home) \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Date registered with IMC  GMC  \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Reg. No. \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Category (Please state division): \_\_\_\_\_

If your name does not appear in the Medical Register of Ireland or the British Medical Register, please supply proof that your qualification can be registered with one of the above together with a Certificate of good standing from the country in which you are registered. Enclose original certificates with first-time applications or certified copies with subsequent applications.

College Registration No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Trainee No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Candidates must produce evidence of holding a Fellowship/ Membership in his/her present specialty (Anaesthesia, Surgery, Medicine etc.)

FCARCSI Date awarded: \_\_\_\_\_

FFARCSI Date awarded: \_\_\_\_\_

FRCA Date awarded: \_\_\_\_\_

FRCSI Date awarded: \_\_\_\_\_

MRCPI Date awarded: \_\_\_\_\_

Other:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date awarded: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date awarded: \_\_\_\_\_

**Details of Pain Medicine Training & current post:**

**Post** \_\_\_\_\_ **Hospital** \_\_\_\_\_

**From** \_\_\_\_\_ **To** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature of Consultant** \_\_\_\_\_

Current Hospital Stamp
------------------------

**Post** \_\_\_\_\_ **Hospital** \_\_\_\_\_

**From** \_\_\_\_\_ **To** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature of Consultant** \_\_\_\_\_

**Post** \_\_\_\_\_ **Hospital** \_\_\_\_\_

**From** \_\_\_\_\_ **To** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature of Consultant** \_\_\_\_\_

**Post** \_\_\_\_\_ **Hospital** \_\_\_\_\_

**From** \_\_\_\_\_ **To** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature of Consultant** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name and Work Address of Consultant currently responsible for your training (e.g. Head of Department)**

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Verification by the hospital Personnel Dept is acceptable, if above-named Consultant is not available to sign the form.

Other details may be attached on a separate sheet.

An application without payment in full cannot be guaranteed an exam place. We cannot accept cash. We can accept any of the following:

- (i) Euro bankdraft
- (ii) International Money Order (in Euros)
- (iii) Euro personal cheque
- (iv) Sterling personal cheque (exchange rate from Sterling to Euro must be checked by yourself on date of writing the cheque).
- (v) Credit card (see overleaf).

All applications, first time and repeat, must include 1 passport-sized photo, with the full name in ballpoint in BLOCK CAPITALS on the back. Do not sign, as signatures are often illegible. Staple photos to form, do not use paperclips. Photos are needed for Exam ID cards in order to gain entry to the exam venue.

We cannot accept applications via email or fax. Please print and send completed application to:  
The Examinations Office, College of Anaesthetists of Ireland, 22 Merrion Square North, Dublin 2, Ireland.

For further queries, please contact the Examinations Officer:

Tel: +353 1 661 4412

Fax: +353 1 265 0699

Email: [exams@coa.ie](mailto:exams@coa.ie)

**DIPLOMA IN PAIN MEDICINE EXAMINATION**

**Credit Card Payment**

Name of exam candidate:

\_\_\_\_\_

Name on card:

\_\_\_\_\_

Card No.:      -       -

Please tick: Visa  MasterCard

(We cannot accept American Express/ Switch/ Laser or other debit cards at this time)

Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ (mm/yy)

Security code (3-digit number on back of card):

***Do not, under any circumstance, write your pin number on this form.***

**Declaration (to be signed by cardholder):**

I authorise the College of Anaesthetists of Ireland to charge €     Euro to the above credit card.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_