



Diploma in Pain Management (DPMCAI)

Fellowship of the Faculty of Pain Medicine (FFPMCAI)

Examination Regulations



CAI
SALUS DUM VIGILAMUS

College of Anaesthesiologists of Ireland

**Curriculum & Regulations for Diploma in Pain Management and Fellowship in Pain
Medicine**

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Application Forms are available on the College of Anaesthesiologists website:

www.anaesthesia.ie or Examinations Office,
College of Anaesthetists of Ireland
22, Merrion Square North, Dublin 2, Ireland

Exams office: 00 353 1 2650612

Pain Medicine Faculty: 00 353 1 2650624

Emails: exams@coa.ie or painmedicine@coa.ie

1. INTRODUCTION

This document provides information regarding training, curricula and exam regulations for the Diploma (Part 1) in Pain Management of the College of Anaesthesiologists of Ireland and the Fellowship (Part 2) in Pain Medicine, CAI.

These regulations govern the content and conduct of the examination leading to the award of the Diploma (Part 1) in Pain Management and Fellowship (Part 2) 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.

2. IMPLEMENTATION

2.1 These regulations will come into force on 1st January 2013, and will be revised annually at the Faculty of Pain Medicine general meeting.

3. EXAMINATION

3.1 The Examinations in Pain Management of the College of Anaesthesiologists will be completed in one sitting.

3.2 Normally there will be one sitting of the Examination in each academic year. However, the Faculty may at any time decide, subject to adequate notice, to adjust the number of sittings of the examination in any year.

4. ELIGIBILITY

4.1 An individual is eligible to enter for the Pain Management Diploma (Part 1) who:

- (a) Has, or is eligible for, full or limited registration with the Irish Medical Council or the General Medical Council (UK) or equivalent.
- (b) Has passed the Fellowship examination of the College of Anaesthesiologists of Ireland/Royal College of Anaesthetists (UK)/or equivalent or a Fellowship/Membership examination in a relevant specialty. A candidate with the MCAI may take the Diploma (Part 1) exam before the fellowship exam. However the award of the diploma (Part 1) will only take place after success in the fellowship exam. This is to allow for the proposed reform in anaesthetic training which will place the Fellowship exam later in training.
- (c) Has completed a total of 6 months modular training in Pain Medicine. Training can be in 2-3 month modules or in a manner agreed with the Training Committee of the Faculty in advance.

4.2 An individual is eligible for the Fellowship in Pain Medicine examination who:

- (a) Has passed the Diploma (Part 1) in Pain Management or the DpMed Pre 2013.
- (b) Has completed two years full-time training in a Pain Medicine Fellowship programme recognised by the Faculty of Pain Medicine CAI, and is in the second year of this programme at the closing date for applications.
- (c) Has completed training and possesses a certificate of specialist training in a recognised medical speciality at the closing date for applications. Or is credentialed to be on the Specialist Register for that speciality by a means other than possession of a CST. A candidate may still take the exam prior to full resolution of the credentialing process but the Fellowship (Part 2) will not be awarded until resolution of the process.
- (d) Pending reciprocity and equivalence agreements a candidate with possession of the FIPP, FFPMANZCA, American Boards Exams in Pain Medicine or equivalent Canadian exams and who has completed two years of training in pain medicine may take the Fellowship (Part 2) exam. These provisional entry criteria will be valid until further notice.

5. Application Procedures

- 5.1 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 (www.anaesthesia.ie) and the Examinations Office, College of Anaesthetists of Ireland, 22 Merrion Square North, Dublin 2, Ireland.
- 5.2 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.
- 5.3 Application must be accompanied by the appropriate fee and any stipulated certificates as required.

6. Referrals and Guidance

- 6.1 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 (Faculty).

7. Representation and Appeals

- 7.1 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 (Faculty), in writing, within 30 days of the results being published. The Faculty and College Examination Committee will consider representations and appeals.

8. Infringements

- 8.1 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.
- 8.2 The Faculty 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 Faculty, any examination result has been secured by cheating, deception or fraud of any kind whatsoever, the Faculty may nullify the result of any qualification resulting from it and withdraw the Diploma (Part 1) and or Fellowship (Part 2) so obtained.

APPENDIX 1

Diploma in Pain Management: Structure of the Examination

- (a) Multiple choice questions (MCQ)** -comprising 40 questions each with 5 stems in acute, chronic and cancer pain medicine
- (b) Single Best Answer (SBA)** – comprising 10 questions
- (c) Viva** – the viva will have a structured format. It will be conducted over a 30 minute period with 2 examiners.

APPENDIX 2

MARKING SYSTEM

A close marking system is used.

| | | |
|----------|---|---------------|
| 4 | - | Outstanding |
| 3 | - | Pass |
| 2 | - | Marginal Fail |
| 1 | - | Veto Fail |

The minimum grades necessary to pass the examination are:

3, 3

Appendix 3

Curriculum for Pain Management Diploma (Part 1)

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. Investigations and diagnosis of pain and related conditions
8. Radiation safety and procedures under X-ray in pain medicine
9. Planning the clinical 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 clinical applications
13. Therapeutics in pain medicine, including the management of substance abuse
14. The use of psychological methods for assessment and support
15. Surgical procedures and pain
16. An understanding of all aspects of terminal illness
17. The assessment and management of pain in children
18. Communication and teaching skills
19. The principles and ethics of pain research
20. The principles of multi-and inter-disciplinary management
21. Organization and management of acute and chronic pain services
22. Audit and quality control in pain management
23. The basic scientific principles and molecular biology relevant to Pain Medicine

Appendix 4

Training in Pain Medicine for Diploma (Part 1) Eligibility

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. Any alternative training arrangements need to be agreed with the Faculty in advance.
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 organized in such a way that a broad knowledge base can be acquired.
4. Training programmes should include input from all disciplines involved in Pain Management.
5. Each hospital providing training in pain medicine must nominate a consultant to supervise training. This consultant must have Pain Medicine sessions and be a Fellow of the Faculty in good standing.

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 sympathetic plexus blocks
2. Epidural and subarachnoid injections
3. Injection into and around joints
4. Neurolytic techniques as applied to peripheral nerves in the epidural and subarachnoid spaces
5. Radiofrequency lesioning
6. Intravenous regional sympathetic blocks
7. Spinal cord stimulation
8. Relaxation techniques
9. Psychological approaches to pain assessment and management

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

Appendix 5

Specialist Training in Pain Medicine; Eligibility for FPMCAI (Part 2)

1. A candidate must have completed two years full-time approved training in Pain Medicine and have successfully completed the first year by the time of application with success in the diploma exam.
2. The training post is recognized by the Faculty of Pain Medicine CAI.
3. The currently recognised training posts are available from the Faculty of Pain Medicine office at CAI.
4. Each hospital must facilitate a broad range of experience including neurodestructive techniques, neuromodulation and multidisciplinary pain management in accordance with IASP criteria.
5. Recognized training posts should have a nominated Director who takes responsibility for training. The Director must be a Fellow of the Faculty of Pain Medicine in good standing.
6. A candidate must possess the Diploma in Pain Management and a CST from a recognized medical specialty.

Completion of a two year training programme and passing the FPMCAI examination enables candidates to be recognized as Specialists in the practice of Pain Medicine and to apply for appropriate Consultant posts in Pain Medicine. Log book Experience needs to be recorded prior to sitting the FPM exam. The Director will pass the log book of the candidate as fit to sit the exam.

The candidate should have exposure to the following:

1. Assess a minimum of 100 new patients at the pain clinic outpatients and compile a treatment plan.
2. There needs to be clear evidence of multidisciplinary involvement in 50% of cases.
3. Diagnostic and therapeutic pain blocks
4. Sympathetic blocks under ultrasound or x-ray.
5. Performed 10 lumbar and 10 cervical radiofrequency rhizotomies
6. Performed 5 cervical and 5 lumbar dorsal root ganglion pulse radiofrequency lesioning
7. Performed 5 neurolytic techniques for the management of cancer pain
8. Implanted 10 spinal cord stimulators and 5 intrathecal pumps
9. Demonstrate competence to re-programme a spinal cord stimulator and refill an intrathecal pump.
10. Exposure to Trigeminal blocks

Structure of the Fellowship (Part 2) Examination

- (a) **Multiple choice questions (MCQ) 40 and Single Best Answer (SBA) 10** -comprising 50 questions each with 5 stems in chronic and cancer pain medicine
- (b) **Viva 1**
Each will be conducted over a 30-minute period each with two examiners.
Viva 1: clinical/audit/professionalism
- (c) **Viva 2**
Each will be conducted over a 30-minute period each with two examiners.
Viva 2: equipment/procedures
- (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. The examination may include some short minor cases at the discretion of the examiners.

MARKING SYSTEM

A close marking system is used.

| | | |
|----------|---|---------------|
| 4 | - | Outstanding |
| 3 | - | Pass |
| 2 | - | Marginal Fail |
| 1 | - | Veto Fail |

The minimum grades necessary to pass the examination are:

3,3,3,2

Any candidate who obtains a 1 in any part of the examination will fail.

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 (CAI).

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 in Pain Medicine.

The pain medicine 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.

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here

Appendix 7
Exam Application form



FACULTY OF
PAIN MEDICINE



CAI
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College of Anaesthetists of Ireland

Please tick box below of exam you wish to apply for:

Diploma (Part 1) in Pain Management
DPMCAI

Fellowship (Part 2) of the Faculty of
Pain Medicine:
FFPMCAI

Surname/ Family name

(as on Medical Degree)

First Name(s)

Gender Male Female **Date of birth** ___/___/_____

Nationality _____

Correspondence Address

Telephone _____

Email _____

Country of Medical Registration: _____

Medical Council Number: _____

College ID _____

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

FCAI Date awarded: _____

FCARCSI Date awarded: _____

FFARCSI Date awarded: _____

FRCA Date awarded: _____

FRCSI Date awarded: _____

MRCPI Date awarded: _____

MCAI 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)

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

For Fellowship (Part 2) applicants:

Date awarded DPMCAI _____

Date awarded CST _____

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 a passport-sized photos, 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.

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 Manager:

Tel: +353 1 2650612

Email: exams@coa.ie

DIPLOMA (PART 1) IN PAIN MANAGEMENT EXAMINATION

FELLOWSHIP (PART 2) OF FACULTY OF PAIN MEDICINE CAI

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: _____