



Fellowship of the Faculty of Pain Medicine (FFPMCAI)

Examination Regulations



CAI
SALUS DUM VIGILAMUS

College of Anaesthetists of Ireland

Curriculum & Regulations for Fellowship in Pain the Medicine

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For further details contact:
Examinations Office
College of Anaesthetists of Ireland
22, Merrion Square North, Dublin 2, Ireland

Examinations 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 Fellowship in Pain Medicine, CAI.

These regulations govern the content and conduct of the examination leading to the award of the Fellowship 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 Anaesthetists 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 for the Fellowship in Pain Medicine examination who:

- (a) 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.
- (b) 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 specialty 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 will not be awarded until resolution of the process.
- (c) 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 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 Applications 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 Fellowship so obtained.

APPENDIX

Appendix 1

Structure of the Fellowship Examination

- (a) Multiple choice questions Single Best Answer (SBA)** comprising of 60 questions each with 5 stems in chronic and cancer pain medicine
- (b) SOE 1**
Each will be conducted over a 25-minute period each with two examiners.
Viva 1: clinical/audit/professionalism
- (c) SOE 2**
Each will be conducted over a 25-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.

Appendix 2

Marking Scheme

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.

Appendix 3

CURRICULUM & TRAINING DIAGRAM			
Medical Council Eight Domains of Good Professional Practice			
	TWO YEAR POST CSCST TRAINING PROGRAMME In-Training Assessments / Annual Progression Reviews	FFPMCAI exam during 2 nd year (after 18 months training)	
	COMPETENCY COMPLETION Fundamentals/Foundation and Essential Topics – Minimum Volumes of Practice / e-Portfolio / Workplace Based Assessments ('WBAs') / Clinical Case Series		
CLINICAL COMPONENTS			
Fundamentals/Foundation <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Anatomy and Physiology of Pain 2. Pathophysiology of Pain 3. Epidemiology of Pain 4. Pharmacology Applied to Pain Medicine 			
Essential Topics <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bio-Psychosocial Aspects of Pain 2. Assessment of Pain and Pain-related Conditions 3. Acute Pain 4. Neuropathic Pain 5. Cancer Pain 6. Visceral Pain 7. Headache and Orofacial Pain 8. Neck and Back (Spinal) Pain 9. 9a) Musculoskeletal Pain (MSK) General and 9b) MSK Pain - Fibromyalgia Syndrome (FMS) and Chronic Widespread Pain (CWP) 10. Complex Regional Pain Syndromes 11. Problematic Substance Use 12. Psychiatry and Chronic Pain 13. Rheumatology and Pain 14. Pelvic Pain 15. Neuromodulation 16. Intrathecal Drug Delivery Systems 17. Pain Management Programmes (PMPs) and Pain Management Education Programmes (PMEPs) 			
Specialist in Pain Medicine (CSCST after 2 years Pain Medicine Training Programme completed)			
Exit Interview			

Appendix 4

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 5

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.

Example of Exam Application

Fellowship of the Faculty of Pain Medicine: FFPMCAI

Sample Online Application

Staple photo
here

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.

Date awarded CST _____

Other details may be attached on a separate sheet.

Applications are online only we cannot accept applications via email or post.

An application without payment in full cannot be guaranteed an exam place. We cannot accept cash.

All applications, first time and repeat, must include a passport-sized photos.

For further queries, please contact the Examinations Office:
Tel: +353 1 2650612; Email: exams@coa.ie

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