



The Hong Kong College of Anaesthesiologists

Administrative Instructions on Granting of Diploma in Pain Management

1. Hong Kong College of Anaesthesiologists recognises the management of acute, chronic and cancer pain as a subspecialty of Anaesthesiology. Diploma in Pain Management of the Hong Kong College of Anaesthesiologists is a post-fellowship qualification in Pain Management.
2. Only registrable Medical Practitioners in Hong Kong in possession of Fellowship of the Hong Kong College of Anaesthesiologists (**FHKCA**) may be considered for award of the Diploma in Pain Management from HKCA. From time to time, the requirements and conditions for awarding the Diploma will be subjected to review and amendment by the Council.
3. The College shall award the Diploma in Pain Management by the following mechanisms:
 - 3.1. By examination
 - 3.2. *Ad eundem*
 - 3.3. On an honorary basis.
4. The Board of Censors shall recommend to the Council the eligibility of individual applicants for awarding of the Diploma. For DPM awarded by examination, the applicant must fulfil all the following requirements:
 - 4.1. Be in possession of FHKCA.
 - 4.2. Have completed training in an accredited post for pain management for not less than one year, of which six months could be conducted during the sixth vocational training year, and at least six months of training must be post-fellowship.
 - 4.3. Have completed a project as approved and accepted by the Pain Management Committee.
 - 4.4. Submit a logbook of patients managed by the applicant during the training period for assessment.
 - 4.5. Satisfy the examiner in an examination conducted by HKCA for such purpose.
5. For the Diploma in Pain Management to be awarded *ad eundem*, the applicant must fulfil all the following requirements:
 - 5.1. In possession of FHKCA prior to application.
 - 5.2. In possession of an overseas qualification in pain management approved by the Council on recommendation from the Pain Management Committee and Board of Censors. Notarized copy of this qualification must be provided for assessment at

application.

- 5.3. Supervised training in pain management with substantiation (certifying letters from institution, department head or trainer).
- 5.4. Currently practising acute, chronic and cancer pain management in structured facilities for at least two years prior to application. This fact is to be certified or substantiated by the institution or department head.
- 5.5. Experience in managing at least one hundred new cases of chronic or cancer pain and two hundred acute pain (excluding obstetric pain) prior to application. Evidence must be provided to substantiate this experience in the form of a logbook or certifying letter from institution or department head concerned.
- 5.6. Clause 5.2 is waived for the first batch of applicants applying **on or before 24 May 1997**.

6. Honorary Diploma in Pain Management.

- 6.1. The Council may nominate and the Fellows may admit by election at a General Meeting, a person with distinguished contributions in the practice, education or research in pain management for Honorary Diploma in Pain Management.
- 6.2. Nomination shall be made and vouched for by members of the Council to the Council and such nomination shall in the first instance be determined by the Council by election, by ballot and to have his nomination thus ratified by the Council, each nominee shall receive the favourable vote of three quarters of the whole Council.
- 6.3. Elections at General Meetings shall be by ballot, and to be thus elected the nominee shall receive the favourable vote of three-quarters of the Fellows present.
- 6.4. Honorary Diploma shall not normally be conferred in absentia and shall only be conferred at a Congregation of the Fellows of the College.

7. Appeals against decisions of the Board of Censors regarding the issues of DPM shall be lodged in writing with the Honorary Secretary within six weeks from the date of notification. This will be considered by the HKCA Appeal Committee.