

**The Hong Kong College of Anaesthesiologists  
Board of Pain Medicine**

## **Guidelines on Transition from Diploma to Fellowship Training in Pain Medicine**

1. This document provides guidance for holders and trainees of the Diploma in Pain Management (Dip. Pain Mgt.) who wish to join the Fellowship training programme in Pain Medicine.
2. All Dip. Pain Mgt. holders may apply to be a First Fellow of the Hong Kong College of Anaesthesiologists' Fellowship in Pain Medicine. Applicants will be considered for admission as First Fellows if they satisfy the criteria for admission as stated in the Administrative Instructions for Admission for First Fellow.
3. Admission to training for the Dip. Pain Mgt. shall cease upon approval of the pain medicine fellowship training program by the HKAM. The pain medicine fellowship training program shall commence within 24 months of such approval.
4. All Dip. Pain Mgt. trainees admitted within 12 months of the approval of the Pain Medicine Fellowship training program by HKAM shall endeavor to complete all the training requirements as soon as possible, as all training requirements, including the training period, caseload and multidisciplinary attendances, shall be invalid for the Dip. Pain Mgt. after the commencement of Fellowship in Pain Medicine training programme. The Dip. Pain Mgt. training programme will no longer be available after the commencement of the Fellowship training programme.
5. All Dip. Pain Mgt. trainees admitted within 12 months of the approval of the Fellowship in Pain Medicine training programme by HKAM, and all Dip Pain Mgt. holders who do not satisfy the requirement for First Fellow may wish to join the Fellowship training programme. The Education Committee of the Board will consider, on an individual basis, the transfer of some or all component(s) of the individual's Dip. Pain Mgt. training, such as vocational training time (up to 12 months), multidisciplinary exposure, caseload exposure, or approved formal project to the fellowship vocational training provided that:
  - i. the applicant must apply and be accepted prospectively as a trainee in the pain medicine fellowship training program
  - ii. the Dip. Pain Mgt. training unit(s) involved must also be fully accredited to be a pain medicine fellowship training unit(s)
  - iii. the applicant shall sit for the pain medicine fellowship examination and complete other training requirements of the pain medicine fellowship training program.
  - iv. This invitation is only applicable as a transitional arrangement and will be valid for the first **two** intakes.

6. The Dip. Pain Mgt. examination shall continue if there are valid candidates who applied for it, until the commencement of Fellowship in Pain Medicine training programme.
7. Projects for the Dip. Pain Mgt. training may be approved up to the date for the commencement of Fellowship in Pain Medicine training programme. Trainees are reminded that approval takes time and they should submit the projects well in advance. Late submissions will not be accepted.

*Endorsed by HKCA Council on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2011*  
*Approved by HKAM Council on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2011*