

# **FHKCA (Pain Med) FAQ (Updated 26.4.12)**

## **GENERAL**

### ***1. What is the training structure for Dip Pain Mgt after fellowship programme commences?***

Currently the training structure for Dip Pain Mgt is a one-year full time training programme usually commenced either towards the end or after the anaesthesiology specialist training programme. When the *FHKCA (Pain Med)* training programme comes into effect, the Dip Pain Mgt training programme will no longer be available. The last DPM examination is expected to be held in 2013.

### ***2. What will be the status of Dip Pain Mgt (HKCA) when FPM training becomes available?***

Holders of the Dip Pain Mgt (HKCA) who are eligible for foundation fellowship will be granted *FHKCA (Pain Med)*. Those who do not qualify for First Fellows may apply to join the Fellowship training programme. Some exemptions may be granted depending on the outcome of individual assessment. Those who do not wish to join this programme will continue to hold the Dip Pain Mgt (HKCA) which will remain quotable by MCHK.

### ***3. Will those without FHKCA (Pain Med) be able to practice pain medicine especially pain procedures?***

Anyone in any specialties who has the relevant training and experience will be able to practice pain medicine.

### ***4. Is a non-HKCA member eligible for FHKCA (Pain Med) training?***

Yes, candidates from participating Colleges may join the training programme at an accredited centre. These candidates must have completed the required basic training in an approved specialty before joining the (higher) vocational training in pain medicine.

### ***5. Can a Fellow be a specialist in both anaesthesia and pain medicine?***

A doctor in Hong Kong may hold more than one specialist qualifications. However the Medical Council of Hong Kong only allows a doctor to register as a specialist in one specialty. This does not preclude the Fellow to practice both anaesthesia and pain medicine if the Fellow is qualified in both areas.

## **TRAINING PROGRAMME**

### ***1. How is the FHKCA (Pain Med) training programme different from the current Dip Pain Mgt (HKCA) programme?***

The Dip Pain Mgt (HKCA) program is a post-fellowship diploma that normally follows the Fellowship in Anaesthesiology of the HKCA. It is a one-year full-time training programme. The *FHKCA (Pain Med)* training is a subspecialty training programme which consists of 3 years of basic training, and 3 years of higher training, which include a minimum of 6 months of Anaesthesia, 6 months of a pain related clinical specialty, and 24 months of vocational pain medicine training. One does not have to be

Fellow of a College before completing FHKCA (Pain Med), which will be a primary Fellowship in its own right.

**2. How does the curriculum of the two training programs differ?**

The *FHKCA (Pain Med)* training calls for a greater variety and intensity of training activities. For example: the vocational pain medicine training period is extended from one to two years, with increased case load requirement. The *FHKCA (Pain Med)* training program also includes other essential elements such as a formal project, mandatory interventional caseload, in-training competencies assessment, examination and structured training in communications, counselling and clinical psychology.

**3. When can I join the fellowship training programme?**

The trainee may join the training programme earliest in the fourth year of their primary specialty training. Application for training must be approved before commencement of the vocational pain medicine training period. The *FHKCA (Pain Med)* training programme is anticipated to commence on the 2014.

**4. How long can I take to complete all fellowship requirements for pain medicine training?**

There are no limits on the time span for the trainee to complete the vocational pain medicine training. The shortest time to complete the requirements is 24 months. According to the regulations of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine, the shortest total training time to acquire both fellowships is 7 years.

**5. What happens if I am unable to complete all my fellowship training requirements by the time I complete my 24-months vocational training period?**

There are time limits on eligibility for the pain fellowship examination and project submission. Trainees will be eligible to sit for the examination after a minimum of 12 months of vocational pain medicine training. They must pass the examination and have the project approved within 2 years after the completion of the vocational pain medicine training. Beyond that, the trainee has to re-join the vocational pain medicine training for another 12 months before he could be eligible again for another 2 years, and so on.

**6. How long is my examination result valid for, if I failed to satisfy my other Fellowship training requirement on time?**

Once passed, the examination results shall remain valid regardless of the status of other *FHKCA (Pain Med)* training requirements. The validity has no time limit.

**7. What interventional pain management procedures must I log to satisfy the requirement?**

You have to perform over 100 interventions during the vocational pain medicine training period, including (and not limited to) neuraxial blocks, peripheral nerve blocks, joint injections, neurolysis, and imaging-assisted interventions. Trigger point injections and acupuncture are not counted.

**8. What does it mean by multidisciplinary session?**

Multidisciplinary pain management sessions refer to sessions where at least 2 or more clinical specialties or disciplines are involved. The trainee may count as 1 of those clinical specialties, while the other one might come from one of the following: clinical psychology, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, or any medical specialty related to pain medicine.

**9. How can I satisfy the requirement for communication, counselling and psychological pain management training?**

You must provide evidence of training programmes or courses on communication, counselling and psychological pain management approved by the Board of Pain Medicine HKCA. A course dedicated to provide the necessary training in the subjects will be made available on a regular basis in future, and endorsed by Board of Pain Medicine HKCA.

***10. Can the pain trainee have non-pain medicine session e.g. on-call during fulltime pain medicine training?***

Yes, provided the on-call duties do not to interfere with pain medicine training activities and that the definition of fulltime training is fulfilled.

***11. Can I submit a project that was previously approved for my first Fellowship training programme for the Fellowship in Pain Medicine?***

A previously approved project for another training programme may be submitted for consideration but approval will be based on its appropriateness and scientific merit. It is encouraged that a separate project is submitted for the Fellowship in Pain Medicine.

## **FIRST FELLOW TRANSITION ARRANGEMENT**

***1. Who will be eligible for admission as First Fellows of FHKCA (Pain Med)?***

All HKCA Fellows with FHKAM and Dip Pain Mgt (HKCA) who are currently practicing pain medicine on a regular basis, and satisfies the requirements as specified in the Administrative Instructions for the Admission of the First Fellows (FF) of the Hong Kong College of Anaesthesiologists' Fellowship in Pain Medicine dated 18.4.2012. will be eligible for admission as First Fellows.

***2. What are the admission criteria for First Fellow?***

The criteria for First Fellow Admission are specified in the Administrative Instructions for the Admission of the First Fellows (FF) of the Hong Kong College of Anaesthesiologists' Fellowship in Pain Medicine dated 18.4.2012. This document is available on the HKCA website.

***3. What does it mean by practising pain medicine on a “regular basis” ?***

“Regular basis” in this context is defined as regular clinical pain medicine sessions comprising at least 2 sessions a week. At least 50% of practice time should be in chronic pain.

***4. If I do not have regular weekly pain clinic sessions, will my pain medicine practice be recognized as “regular” if I see consultations on an ad hoc but frequent basis?***

If you see pain patient consultations frequently enough, you will likely be recognized as having a regular practice. Sessions are generally required, but in the situation where sessional clinical activities are not available at a centre or hospital, then the following conversion may be recognised :

- i. 1 session = 3 hours of clinical activity
- ii. 1 new case = 1 hour of clinical activity
- iii. 1 old case = 0.5 hours of clinical activity

Only cases outside the claimed sessions can be used for calculation in the above manner. You may be requested to submit your case logbooks of new and old cases, workload and schedule for pain medicine practice for verification to see if you qualify for regular practice. Each application will be assess on an individual basis.

**5. How are the case exposure counted? Will my Dip Pain Mgt (HKCA) logged cases be counted?**

Clinical cases can include cases logged over a period of eight years preceding the time of application. Cases logged during your Dip Pain Mgt (HKCA) training will be counted provided they were logged within the 8 years preceding application. Each patient shall be counted once only by each FF applicant.

**6. What do I need to do to provide evidence of these exposures?**

The applicant must be able to provide evidence to support these caseloads. Case logbooks for chronic & cancer pain are required. The following details should be included in the logbook, i.e. date, name (surname and initials), patient identifier (HN number, OPD number, or ID number with last 4 digits excluded). Applicants are advised to observe the requirement of Privacy Ordinance when recording and providing these information. Other forms of data such as outpatient patients' attendance lists, pain procedure booking lists, acute pain service follow-up forms, rosters and other data as appropriate will need to be assessed on an individual basis. All supporting data must be verifiable

**7. How can I satisfy the requirement for counselling, communication and psychological management training?**

You must provide evidence of training programmes or courses on communication, counselling and psychological pain management to be approved by the Board of Pain Medicine HKCA. A course dedicated to provide the necessary training in the subjects will be made available on a regular basis in future, and endorsed by Board of Pain Medicine HKCA.

**8. When can I submit my application for First Fellow? When will the admission of First Fellows start?**

It is anticipated that you may submit your application for First Fellow in the second quarter of 2012. All DPM holders will be informed when the date is confirmed. The admission of First Fellow will commence in the third quarter of 2012. Special Assessments will be held in September 2012, April 2013 and November 2013.

Deadline for Application	Special Assessment Date
13 July 2012	12 (Wed) & 15 Sep 2012 (Sat)
22 Feb 2013	20 Apr 2013 (Sat)
04 Oct 2013	30 Nov 2013 (Sat)

**9. When will the admission of First Fellows end?**

The HKAM has approved the Fellowship programme on 15 December 2011. First Fellow admission will end 24 months after approval of Fellowship programme by HKAM. It is anticipated that the First Fellow admission will end in last quarter of 2013.

**10. If I am not eligible for FF admission but have Dip Pain Mgt (HKCA), can I join the FHKCA (Pain Med) training programme with some training requirement exemptions?**

Those who are not eligible for FF admission may join the FHKCA (Pain Med) training programme provided the entry criteria are satisfied. Exemptions on the FHKCA (Pain Med) training time may be granted depending on the outcome of individual assessment. This transitional arrangement will only be valid for the first two intakes. Those who do not wish to join this programme will continue to hold the Dip Pain Mgt (HKCA) which will remain quotable by MCHK.

***11. If I wish to join the Fellowship training programme will the cases logged during my Dip Pain Mgt (HKCA) training be recognised for FHKC (Pain Med)?***

Cases logged during Dip Pain Mgt (HKCA) training may be recognised provided the requirements as set out in the Guidelines on Transition from the Diploma to Fellowship training in Pain Medicine dated 15.12.2011 are fulfilled. This guideline is available on the HKCA website.

***12. If I have logged cases during my overseas training, can they be counted?***

Yes, cases logged during your overseas training may be recognized as caseload for FF. You will need to submit your case logbook, as well as details of the training centre you were attached to during your training. The training centre may be requested to complete the HKCA application form for accreditation of training in pain medicine.

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