

Australian Association of Musculoskeletal Medicine Certificate in Musculoskeletal Medicine

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Introduction

The Australian Association of Musculoskeletal Medicine (AAMM) is offering a Certificate in Musculoskeletal Medicine to provide doctors with the opportunity to extend their expertise in dealing with musculoskeletal complaints in a structured way that is compatible with the other continuing professional development demands. The certificate is offered in a modular format, to allow doctors to pace their learning to meet their own needs specified in their own learning plan and/or benefit from individual modules if they do not wish to complete the certificate. It will allow GP registrars and Pain Medicine and Rehabilitation Medicine trainees to upskill to a level that should improve their performance in their Fellowship exams in the area of musculoskeletal problems.

Certificate Outline and Components

The certificate comprises four modules that individually are useful in clinical practice, but collectively would provide a comprehensive approach to upskilling in this area. To complete the requirements for the certificate, candidates are required to complete four modules and pass an assessment process.

These modules cover areas of the musculoskeletal system as follows:

Module 1: Assessment and Management of Low Back Pain

Module 2: Assessment and Management of Neck and Upper Back Pain

Module 3: Assessment and Management of Upper Limb Pain

Module 4: Assessment and Management of Lower Limb Pain

Each module covers assessment (history/examination/investigation/clinical reasoning) and management (education, manual techniques, exercises, medication, injections and others). They are being mapped directly to the 'extended expertise' level of the RACGP curriculum musculoskeletal skills scope document.

The components of each module are:

1. Prereading of approximately 6 hours and a 15-item multiple choice question test to prepare for the workshop and reduce the time spent on knowledge/theory during the workshop.
2. A day long workshop comprising 7 ½ hours teaching, learning and assessment time and an hour for breaks. This is done almost entirely in a small group format to maximise learning.
3. Modules are designed to be independent but also reinforcing of each other. Hence they may be taken in any order. The certificate will be awarded when all four modules have been successfully completed.

RACGP CPD Points and ACRRM PDP Hours

An application for approval of each module as a CPD Accredited Activity attracting 40 CPD program points will be made to the RACGP. Similarly an application will be made to ACRRM PDP for 8 Educational Activity Hours and 7 Performance Review Hours. This will provide an incentive for GPs to do individual modules even if they are not aiming for the certificate and a further incentive for those who have enrolled in the certificate.

The requirements for these CPD points and hours include:

1. Completion of the 'predisposing activity' ie ~6 hours of prereading, submission of a case description (predisposing activity) and completion of a 15-item multiple choice question test based on the prereading material.

2. Adequate participation and performance in the practical components of the workshop, ie physical examination, treatment and case discussion as assessed by each tutor
3. Completion of a workshop evaluation form
4. Completion of the 'reinforcing activity' ie a reflection on the case description (ACRRM only).

Assessment for the Certificate

The assessment and evaluation of each module comprises:

1. Completion and passing of a 15-item multiple choice question test based on the prereading and submitted before the workshop
2. Adequate participation in small group work
3. Adequate physical examination skills assessed at the workshop

For those who successfully complete the certificate, a certificate will be awarded that can be framed and displayed as desired. Although the certificate will not be a registerable qualification with AHPRA, it can be used in marketing to indicate a higher level of proficiency in dealing with musculoskeletal problems.

Module Fees

There will be a fee for each module of \$640 (incl GST) for GPs and Specialists, \$540 for members of the AAMM and a discounted fee of \$440 (incl GST) for registrars and \$340 for medical students and for past participants repeating modules. This covers all components of the module, workshop meals, teaching and administrative costs.

There will be no additional fee for enrolling in the certificate, but applicants for modules will be asked to declare their intention to complete the certificate over time.

Refunds

Required: Email of unavailability to attend the module (i.e. Illness, Conflicting Priorities). A full refund will be given for cancellations made before prereading is received. After the receipt of pre-reading, a 50% refund will be given.

Schedule and Location for Modules

Dates for the upcoming module workshops to be held in Brisbane are

- Saturday 01 August, 2020 – lower limb pain module (date to be confirmed subject to the COVID 19 pandemic restrictions)
- Saturday 14 November, 2020 – low back pain module
- Saturday in February 2021 TBA – neck and upper back pain module

It is planned to extend the offering of the certificate modules in Adelaide in 2020 with the following workshop dates:

Due to ongoing restrictions to interstate travel and gathering sizes, the Adelaide LBP module is unable to go ahead on June 27th. We have rescheduled the session to September 5th and will keep you informed.

- Saturday 5 September - Low Back pain module
- Saturday 5 December – Neck and Upper Back pain module.
- Saturday in March 2021 TBA - upper limb pain module

Expressions of Interest

Expressions of interest in enrolling in individual modules and/or the whole certificate should be emailed to the AAMM certificate administration officers

- Kim Ramillon for Brisbane base modules - email aamm.cert@gmail.com and phone 0475 091 625
- Carmela Rodier for Adelaide based modules - email aamm.sa.cert@gmail.com