



Australian Association of Musculoskeletal Medicine

Australian Association of Musculoskeletal Medicine Certificate in Musculoskeletal Medicine

Prepared by A/Prof Michael Yelland, Dr Geoff Harding and Dr Paul Cleary

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 registrars in General Practice, Pain Medicine and Rehabilitation Medicine training programmes 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 will comprise 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 will have to complete four modules and pass an assessment process.

These modules will cover areas of the musculoskeletal system as follows:

Module 1: Assessment and Management of Low Back Pain and Disability

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

Module 3: Assessment and Management of Upper Limb Pain and Disability

Module 4: Assessment and Management of Lower Limb Pain and Disability

Each module will cover 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 will be:

1. Prereading of 4-6 hours 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.
3. Post workshop multiple choice question test showing evidence of learning from prereading and workshop components.

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.

An application for approval of each module as an 'Active Learning Module' attracting 40 Category 1 QI and CPD points will be made to the RACGP. 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 award of the 40 Category 1 points is contingent on submission of predisposing and reinforcing activity forms and full participation in the module workshop day.

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.

Assessment and evaluation

The assessment and evaluation of each module needs to meet the requirements of the certificate. As such it will comprise:

1. Adequate participation and performance in the practical components of the workshop, ie physical examination, treatment and case discussion as assessed by each facilitator
2. A Multiple Choice Question exam including 15 questions on the material covered in both the prereading and the workshop
3. Completion of a workshop evaluation form

Module Fees

There will be a fee for each module of \$770 (incl GST) for GPs and a discounted fee of \$550 (incl GST) for registrars and members of the AAMM. 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.

Schedule and Location for Modules

Dates for the first series of modules are

- Saturday 5 August 2017 - low back pain and disability module
- Saturday 11 November 2017 – neck and upper back pain and disability module
- Saturday 17 Feb 2018 – upper limb pain and disability module
- Saturday 19 May 2018 – lower limb pain and disability module

The first rotation of modules will be held at the premises of General Practice Training Queensland in Stafford, Brisbane. The aim is to provide a similar rotation of modules in the years that follow, but these may be located in other major centres, such as Sydney or Melbourne, dependent on local demand.

Further enquiries

Enquiries about the certificate program and requirements should be addressed to A/Prof Michael Yelland at m.yelland@griffith.edu.au. Enquiries about enrolment in individual modules and/or the whole certificate should be emailed the AAMM certificate administration officer, Georgina Dale at aamm.secretary@gmail.com.