

European Pain Federation EFIC Examination for the Diploma in Pain Medicine

Information for participants

Purpose

The purpose of the European Pain Federation EFIC Examination for the Diploma in Pain Medicine

(EDPM) is to improve the standard of pain assessment and treatment through the provision of a qualification for all medical professionals that tests their broad understanding of all types of pain and their treatment.

The EDPM is not designed to replace national qualifications, but to establish a harmonised understanding of pain across Europe through a qualification open to all European doctors, as well as doctors from outside of Europe, and to provide a qualification in those countries where a national equivalent does not exist.

Basis

The content of the Examination is based upon the European Pain Federation EFIC Pain Curriculum for the European Diploma in Pain Medicine ('the Curriculum') and accompanying reading list.

Target audience

The EDPM is open to all qualified doctors who see and treat pain. Appropriate clinical experience in pain assessment and treatment is essential. Residents and fellows working in multidisciplinary pain centres or multidisciplinary pain clinics are ideal candidates, though the qualification is open to all doctors, specialists or general practitioners, with an interest in pain and its management.

Assessment format

The Examination will take place in two parts:

- Part 1 will be a multiple-choice question (MCQ) examination.
- Part 2 will be a series of objective structured clinical examinations (OSCEs) and viva examinations.

The Examination Committee may decide to hold part 1 and part 2 separately or together in one sitting. Completion of part 1 alone shall not be considered a qualification designated by the European Pain Federation EFIC.

MCQs

The MCQ examination is designed to test the participants' knowledge of pain assessment and treatment.

The MCQ examination will feature 50 questions. Each question will be composed of a stem followed by five answer statements. Each answer statement will either be true or false. There will be no negative marking.

The time provided for the MCQ examination will be 90 minutes.

The MCQ examination will be in paper form, and papers should be completed using either a pen or a pencil. Participants should take care to ensure that one choice of either true or false is marked per answer statement.

OSCEs

The OSCEs are designed to test the participants' clinical experience, judgement, interpretation of evidence, attitude and communication skills.

The OSCEs will take place within an examination facility, typically a wing of a teaching hospital or University with an appropriate lay-out and equipment for the conduct of OSCEs.

There will be 6 stations, each representing a simple clinical situation. Participants will be provided with 7 minutes to complete each station, with a short break in between each station. Each station will be marked using an examination paper, to be completed by the participant, or in some specific cases by an examiner who will attend the station.

Each OSCE will be organised in a way that participants are provided with information which is as objective as possible. Any communication from examiners or actors shall be as objective as possible and based on guidance provided in advance at the Examiner briefing.

Vivas

Vivas are designed to test the participants' clinical experience, judgement, attitude and communication skills.

Vivas are oral examinations, in which the participant is asked to engage in a dialogue with an examiner. There will be two vivas, each lasting 10 minutes. One viva will be based upon a case history submitted by the participant, the other will be based upon a typical clinical situation designated by the Examination Committee.

Pass mark

The pass mark for the MCQ is 70%. The pass mark for OSCEs and vivas will be determined after raw results have been received.

Four marking levels will be established for each feature.

4. Pass with distinction
3. Pass
2. Yellow flag
1. Red flag

Any participant receiving two 'yellow flags' or one 'red flag' will be deemed to have failed the Examination as a whole.

The exact mark designated to each of these levels will be decided after raw scores have been received.

Language

The Examination content, both written and oral, will be in English. Participants are advised that a high-level of spoken and written English is required. Translation or interpretation services are not possible for this Examination.

Eligibility criteria

Candidates will be accepted for participation if they meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Demonstrable possession of a Medical Degree.
- Curriculum Vitae detailing at least three years' clinical work in which patients with pain have been assessed and treated
- Letter of support or endorsement from two referees. For example, a head of department, clinical director or senior colleague. Endorsement letter should state that the candidate is in good standing in their country, and in their department, and is involved in seeing and managing patients with pain on a regular basis.
- Completion of application form online
- Strong working knowledge of English (oral and written)
- Payment of fees ahead of the requested deadline
- Submission of all supporting documents required for vivas and any other presentations

The confirmation of any participant's registration is at the discretion of the Examination Committee. Participants whose registration is not accepted shall be informed in writing with a brief justification, reflecting the eligibility criteria for the Examination.

The Examination Committee shall have the right to establish a maximum number of participants for any part of the Examination at any time should the number of eligible candidates exceed the resources available for the conduct of the Examination. Candidates who are not accepted on this basis will be eligible to apply in the future, but are not automatically included on a waiting list for the subsequent Examination.

Infringements

Candidates will be provided with pens and pencils. No additional materials can be taken into the Examination venues. Electronic devices such as phones, tablets, computers, smart watches or similar are strictly prohibited.

Communication between participants during the Examination is strictly prohibited.

Any participant found to be breaching these rules, or to be jeopardising the fair conduct of the Examination in any other way will be excluded. Any participant found to have passed any part of the Examination through fraudulent means will have their qualification rescinded.

Appeals process

Any participant wishing to appeal should write to the Examination Committee via the European Pain Federation EFIC Secretariat within four weeks off receiving their results. Appeals will be responded to by the Examination Committee within six weeks of the initial communication of results.

Fees

The fees for participation in the Examination will be as follows:

Part 1 – 250 euros

Part 2 – 450 euros

If part 1 and part 2 are held over one sitting, a fee of 700 euros will be charged.

Registration fees are non-refundable, however, any participants with a legitimate force majeure cancellation may be considered for participation in future examinations at a reduced rate. An administration fee of 20% will be charged for any participant offered this option.