



CANADIAN ACADEMY OF PAIN MANAGEMENT

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FAQ ON CAPM CREDENTIALING

WHAT IS CREDENTIALING BY CAPM, AND WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

A person who is a member of a professional association may receive credentialing for special qualifications, achievement, or skills. Credentialing is usually a formal application and not a grandfathering process and often gives a diploma so that the member becomes a "diplomate" in the professional association.

To apply for credentialing, the member must be a member in the CAPM Credentialing Stream, have practiced for two years or more, and be licensed in good standing by her/his regulatory college.

WHAT ARE THE QUALIFICATIONS ON WHICH CREDENTIALING IS BASED?

CAPM bases credentialing on the following qualifiers;

- professional training and graduating in a regulated health care profession
- licensure by the regulatory college for your profession
- being a member of the CAPM Credentialing Stream
- two years or more experience in clinical work
- a positive evaluation by three peers who provide letters of reference on your pain management work
- achievement: this includes attending a pain management course and passing an examination. At present there is:
 1. a small group format course conducted every few months at McMaster followed by examination,
 2. or alternatively postgraduate credit course offered online by University of Alberta, requiring at least first 2 of 3 units to be completed successfully,
 3. or alternatively members who have completed and passed the AAPM credentialing examination.

WHAT ADVANTAGES ARE THERE IN BEING CREDENTIALLED?

As long as you are credentialed member, you can have your name and credentialing posted on the CAPM website which is searchable by the public. You also may list the credential on your own advertising material and business cards (but must not list it as if it were a degree, pain specialist designation, board certification as pain specialist, or license to practice)

WHAT HAPPENS IF I STOP BEING A MEMBER – CAN I REMAIN CREDENTIALLED? WHY CAN'T I JOIN THE AAPM AND BE CREDENTIALLED BY THEM, AND THEN STOP BEING A MEMBER OF AAPM AND HAVE CAPM RECOGNIZE MY AAPM CREDENTIALING?

Credentialing is conferred by an Academy or professional association on its members, but is not a degree, so if the member ceases being a member, the credentialing is no longer valid.

CAPM does recognize AAPM credentialing/recredentialing and CAPM members are awarded CAPM Diplomate status if they are AAPM members and credentialed by AAPM. However in doing that, CAPM assumes that you will continue to be a member of AAPM and that AAPM will be monitoring the AAPM membership status and ongoing recredentialing process every four years. (AAPM membership is good value and we do recommend to our members to consider being member of both AAPM and CAPM.) However, you cannot remain credentialed if you stop being a member of the Academy that credentialed you. That would apply to both AAPM and to CAPM. If a CAPM member credentials with AAPM, and then

does not keep up AAPM membership, the member is not actually credentialed by AAPM, and therefore not by CAPM either. To become credentialed again, you can either resume membership with AAPM and provide that information to CAPM, or you can recredential with CAPM by providing the CAPM with the requisite documentation.

If a CAPM member credentials with AAPM, and instead wants to be recredentialled only with CAPM, we would need to do recredentialing ourselves. On receipt of copy of the original AAPM credential we would accept that the member has passed the AAPM exam. However, CAPM would still need to have the following in order for CAPM to recredential;

- paid up CAPM membership in credentialing stream,
- proof of being registered with your regulatory college,
- proof of the academic degree for which they are licensed (e.g. in case of CPSO the license by CPSO proves both the MD degree as well as current registry with CPSO)
- and proof of 100 hours in the past 4 years of CME activities relevant to pain (this may be from a transcript from your College, e.g. MOCOMP or MainPro).

WHAT IS RECREDENTIALING?

Credentialing is valid for four years after being credentialed and every four years a member needs the following:

- paid up CAPM membership in Credentialing Stream
- ongoing licensure by your regulatory college,
- and documentation of at least 100 hours of pain-related continuing education activity (this may be from a transcript from your College, e.g. MOCOMP or MainPro).

IS CREDENTIALING PORTABLE BETWEEN AAPM AND CAPM?

A member of CAPM in Credentialing Stream who becomes credentialed by AAPM will be granted a Diplomate by CAPM for the duration of that AAPM Credentialing certificate (4 years): after 4 years the member must be recredentialled. If the member has resigned from AAPM before the 4 years, then CAPM can recredential you provided the documentation described above is provided by you to CAPM. (Note that CAPM is not a chapter or subsidiary of AAPM and documents and information supplied by you to AAPM is not shared by AAPM with CAPM, so this information must be provided by you to CAPM.)

However, credentialing by CAPM is not recognized by AAPM.

If a CAPM member credentials with AAPM and is recredentialled by AAPM, we have no record of AAPM recredentialing unless the member sends us a copy of it. AAPM shares no information with CAPM. Therefore when CAPM reissues credentialing every 4 years, you must provide a copy of your AAPM certificate renewal after you go through the AAPM recredentialing process, in order to get your CAPM recredentialing diploma.

IF I AM CREDENTIALLED, DOES THIS MEAN THAT I AM "BOARD CERTIFIED, A PAIN SPECIALIST"? CAN I LIST THE CAPM CREDENTIALING AS A DEGREE?

Most or all regulatory Colleges for any of the professions make it clear that it is "professional misconduct" to appear to claim a degree or qualification you don't have. Since CAPM Diplomate is not a degree, but a credential provided to certain qualified members, it is permissible to put this on your business card or advertising material or letterhead only if it is in a separate line below the line that shows your name, your academic degree, your license, and your designation (e.g. Physician, Surgeon, Physiotherapist, Nurse etc.), and if you are Change of Scope physician, this also goes on a separate line: see illustration.

e.g.

Eldon Tunks MD CM FRCP(c), psychiatrist

Practicing in pain management

Member of CAPM and AAPM; DCAPM, DAAPM

CAPM and AAPM each have Boards of Directors, but this is not a regulatory or licensing body, and is not equivalent to the American Board of Medical Specialties, Royal College of Physicians, etc. You must not claim to be a medical specialist, or certified specialist based on a credentialing diploma.

WHAT IS ADVANCED CREDENTIALING?

While Credentialing is a general category that is applicable to all members who satisfy the above mentioned qualifications, there is another type of credentialing having to do with advanced skills and competencies relevant to pain management. So far, this category is used in two situations. One is to identify physicians (usually Change of Scope physicians) who have advanced training in interventional procedures for pain, and the other is specialty training level chiropractors who are also teaching faculty, who have developed skills and competencies equipping them to teach junior learners in pain management (and this category is still under review and will not yet be available to chiropractic specialist members until final approval). These are restricted categories, and are not the same as Diplomate status with CAPM that any regulated professional member of CAPM can apply for.

Because advanced credentialing in interventional pain management was developed in consultation with CAPM and interventional pain opinion leaders, the CPSO policies are also consistent with CAPM recommendations for interventional pain management competency. The CAPM requirements are

- membership in the credentialing stream of CAPM,
- two years or more of clinical practice,
- passing the peer review and the clinic site review by the CPSO peer reviewers,
- and licensure with CPSO (regulatory body) is up-to-date.
- Consistent with CPSO and CAPM guideline the applicant will be asked for account or description of six months or more of training, supervision, or mentorship in the interventional skills being used, and list of the intervention procedures and skills used in actual practice. (At this point many are already long-time practitioners in interventional skills so the requirement is not a prospective account of trainee but rather a retrospective account of how the interventional skills were acquired.)

