
**American Academy of Pain Management Pain Program Accreditation:
Description and Value**

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In the April 1992 issue of *The Pain Practitioner* newsletter, the American Academy of Pain Management (the Academy) announced the creation of the Pain Program Accreditation (PPA) service. The purpose of the PPA was to give pain management programs the opportunity to demonstrate quality treatment and compliance with peer-reviewed standards established by pain practitioners. Over the years, these standards have been refined and revised to keep current with today's health care practice and regulatory environment. In 2006, the 8th edition of the Pain Program Accreditation Manual will be published.

Today, the Academy is the only organization that provides accreditation for large comprehensive multidisciplinary treatment programs and for pain management programs offered by smaller, formalized networks of solo practitioners. Accreditation is also offered to syndrome or modality-oriented clinics as long as a multi/interdisciplinary treatment philosophy can be demonstrated through appropriate consultation, referral, and documented communication among providers.

The purpose of accreditation through the Academy is to establish credibility for a pain program by demonstrating that patients receive appropriate services in a safe and effective fashion. In addition to the clinical services provided to patients, PPA standards also focus on the organization's ongoing business practices, personnel management, and the physical plant (with an emphasis on safety). The Academy's program standards do

not dictate which specific modalities must be present in a treatment program. Typically, however, multi/interdisciplinary approaches incorporate pharmacological, psychological/behavioral, and physical/rehabilitative components along with interventional/surgical methods. Non-allopathic methods (such as acupuncture and massage) are often included.

To meet the diverse needs of the Academy's membership and provide patient safeguards through the accreditation process, six classifications of pain programs may apply for accreditation:

- **Major comprehensive multidisciplinary pain program**—manages various types of painful conditions, conducts professional or community education and/or formal research programs, and involves a minimum of six (6) disciplines operating in an integrated fashion within the same organization.
- **Comprehensive multidisciplinary pain program**—manages various types of painful conditions, may conduct education or research programs, and involves a minimum of four (4) disciplines operating within the same organization.
- **Small multidisciplinary pain program**—manages various types of pain conditions and involves a minimum of two (2) disciplines operating within the same organization.
- **Network multidisciplinary pain program**—generally involves a solo practitioner or group of clinicians all of the same discipline who accomplish interdisciplinary care of various types of pain conditions by

