

Criteria and rules for AOA obstetric anaesthesia fellowship

Duration

- Both 6-month and 1-year fellowships will be available, according to the choice of the candidate; and will be called -
- 6 months course - AOA Obstetric anaesthesia Certification Course
- 1 year course - AOA Obstetric anaesthesia Fellowship.

Fees

- Fees to be paid by the candidate for AOA fellowship will be Rs 50,000/- for one year and Rs 35,000/- for the six-month fellowship

Criteria for institution conducting AOA fellowships:

- At least 150 beds or more (can be relaxed if number of deliveries > 100 / month)
- At least 100 deliveries per month, with an epidural uptake rate of 35% and above
- Operation theatre complex, having a facility for an emergency surgery, with all basic and invasive monitoring modalities
- Anaesthesia department offering labour analgesia as per standard protocols
- Well established Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology with a trained gynecologist available round the clock
- Labour rooms and delivery rooms with separate staff as per standard guidelines
- A facility for NICU/PICU with neonatologists/Paediatrician available round the clock.
- A high dependency unit or an ICU for monitoring and respiratory assistance of the parturient.
- Availability of ultrasound machine with linear, curvilinear, and cardiac probes to facilitate pocus and USG guided cannulation

Criteria for institution conducting AOA Certificate course:

- At least 75 beds or more (can be relaxed if number of deliveries > 50 / month)
- At least 40 deliveries per month, with an epidural uptake rate of 35% and above
- Operation theatre complex, having a facility for an emergency surgery, with all basic and invasive monitoring modalities
- Anaesthesia department offering labour analgesia as per standard protocols
- Well established Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology with a trained gynecologist available round the clock
- Labour rooms and delivery rooms with separate staff as per standard guidelines
- A facility for NICU/PICU with neonatologists/Paediatrician available round the clock.
- A high dependency unit or an ICU for monitoring and respiratory assistance of the parturient.
- Availability of ultrasound machine with linear, curvilinear, and cardiac probes to facilitate pocus and USG guided cannulation

A special provision of entering into a MOU with high volume institution approved by AOA maybe granted on a case -to case basis after an initial assessment report has been send to AOA by the AOA Executive assigned for inspection of grant of fellowship to interested proposed AOA Fellowship site. This is however subject to decision of AOA Governing body & Current AOA Executive body.

Faculty:

- A minimum of 2 senior consultants including their head of the Department
- A minimum of 2 junior consultants
- At least 2- 4 senior residents or registrars in the main department (Optional)
- The Faculty should have obstetric anaesthesia experience, with at least 25 - 30% timespent in Obstetric anaesthesia
- The Faculty should be actively involved in ongoing academic achievements like publications, presentations, audits and conduct of research.

Experience required for certification course

- Total number of hours spent in OB unit –at least 40 hours/week for 6-month course
- At least 40 epidurals/ neuraxials for labour analgesia
- At least 5 general anaesthesia for CS
- Exposure to obstetric cases other than CS - ectopic, MRP, SERPC, tubectomy, cerclage, laparoscopic surgery in antenatal mothers.
- Exposure to PPH cases.
- Exposure to Accreta cases will be greatly valued.

At least one academic activity like case reports, audits, retrospective / prospective studies, chapter authorships will be valued but not required.

- In case the minimum number of cases could not be met due to unforeseen circumstances, the duration of certificate course can be extended until minimum case criteria are met. It is expected that the candidate will be paid stipend during the extension period.
- Acceptance letter with course details and stipend details should be signed by candidate and program director / department chief / recruitment in charge and submitted to AOA at the beginning for certification course.

Experience required for 1 year fellowship course

- Total number of hours spent in OB unit – > 20 hours/week or at least 1100 hours during the course duration
- At least 50 epidurals/ neuraxials for labour analgesia
- At least 5 general anaesthesia for CS
- At least 10 obstetric cases other than CS –E.g., ectopic, MRP, SERPC, tubectomy, cerclage, laparoscopic surgery in antenatal mothers
- At least 5 PPH cases
- At least 2 Accreta cases
- At least 5 cases with maternal co-morbidities – Severe preeclampsia, heart disease, infection / sepsis, liver failure, renal failure, haematological disorders, neurological disorders etc.,
- Protected time for research is encouraged
- Plan for 1-year rotations including electives should be developed in consultation with the candidate.
- Acceptance letter with rotation schedule and stipend details should be signed by candidate and program director / department chief / recruitment incharge and submitted to AOA at the beginning for fellowship.
- Typical fellowship rotations may include 6 months OB anaesthesia rotations, 1 month adult critical care, 1 month high risk Obstetric clinic / maternal foetal medicine clinic with focus on developing exposure to fetal assessment (CTG, basic foetal well-being scans) , antenatal management of DM, HTN, APLA, heart disease etc., 15 days NICU rotation, 15 days part time

clinical & part time educational activities, 3 months elective rotations may include medical simulation, general OR, regional , cardiothoracic, paediatric or additional time in OB / adult ICU as per institutional logistics and candidate preferences.

• Details of monthly reports* to be submitted to AOA include the following: required for both certification course and fellowship :

- Number of C-sections
- Number of other Obstetric cases
- Number of labour analgesia
- Number of complicated operative cases – abnormal placentation, cardiac disease, critically ill patient – respiratory, liver, renal etc
- Number of critically ill patients attended - diagnosis
- Total number of hours spent in OB unit for the month
- If ICU rotation – Cases managed for the month-
- Elective rotation details & cases managed for the month -

Academic activities:

- Topics read
- Journal articles read
- Academic sessions attended : ; presented : – topic details, moderated by:

*Monthly reports must be signed by both fellowship director and candidate and forwarded to AOA before 5th of every month. Failure to file timely reports may lead to cancellation of the program.

Additional requirements for fellowship & certification course:

- Before granting Fellowship status, an official MOU will be signed with AOA that these criteria will be met. Low-volume centres must undertake to liaise with other high-volume centres to compensate for any deficiency in learning skills due to low numbers in their centre.
- Competitive Stipend should be paid to the candidate during the course duration.
- Total number of candidates permitted at a centre will be decided by case load, performance of past fellows, feedback from staff and fellows at a centre. Exposure to case load and number of candidates must be balanced.
- In house library or online access to OB anaesthesia study materials is highly encouraged.
- Certificate of 6 months course should have signatures of head of the department, fellowship director, and Institute head / medical director.
- Allowable leave for 6 months course should not exceed 10 days
- Allowable leave for 1 year fellowship should not exceed 21 days
- Additional days of absence will have to adjusted with extension in course duration.

Exam guidelines

- Logbook to be submitted with exam application. This can be in electronic format but should have a summary sheet showing consolidated experience with the same headings in the monthly reports. In addition, important/interesting cases should be written up in a separate document.
- Criteria for appearing in Viva voce - 50% marks cut off in theory test
- Exam will be conducted at AOA conference
- Exam outside AOA conference can be arranged depending on number of candidates appearing and availability of faculty.