

Thinking of Specialty

Palliative Medicine is the study and management of patients with active, progressive, far advanced disease, for whom the prognosis is limited and the focus of care is on their quality of life.

Overview of Palliative Medicine

Palliative Medicine involves comprehensive symptom management and support of individuals with life-limiting illness, and their families, by a palliative care team.

The management of pain and other symptoms and of psychological, social, and spiritual problems is paramount. An essential component of Palliative Medicine is bereavement and family support.

Advanced Training in Palliative Medicine is based on a broad experience in Palliative Medicine, as well as specific experience in cancer medicine.

Specialty training

Over the course of the training program, all trainees must carry out a variety of teaching and learning activities, including work-based learning and assessment requirements, and other program requirements in consultation with their supervisors.

There are two training pathways:

RACP Training Pathway

Physician training is undertaken through the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) and consists of:

- a minimum of 36 months of Basic Training in Adult Medicine or Paediatrics and Child Health followed by
- a minimum of 36 months of Advanced Training in Palliative Medicine; this has recently changed to 24 months core and 12 months non-core.
- work-based learning and assessment requirements.

Upon completion of the program trainees will be awarded FRACP and FACHPM.

Australian Chapter of Palliative Medicine Training Pathway

Trainees may apply to enter the 36 month Advanced Training Program after obtaining Fellowship of one of the Colleges/Faculties listed below:

- Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (FANZCA)
- Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (FACRRM)
- Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (FRACS)
- Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (FRANZCOG)
- Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (FRANZCP)
- Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists (FRANZCR)

- Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (FRACGP)
- Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners (FRNZCGP)
- Australasian Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine (FAFRM)
- Faculty of Pain Medicine (FFPMANZCA)
- College of Intensive Care Medicine (FCICM)
- Australasian College for Emergency Medicine (FACEM).

It is likely that you need to complete placements in multiple DHBs whilst completing vocational training

Personal qualities required to be a Palliative Medicine Physician

- enjoy a holistic, team approach to care, placing the patient's wishes and priorities at the centre of any consultation
- maintenance of a balanced and broad perspective on health care delivery
- good communication skills are essential
- exceptional skills in clinical judgement
- an aptitude for reflective practice is helpful
- ability to face ethical issues which cannot be avoided
- preparedness to learn and adopt new and validated approaches to diagnosis and management, despite logistical difficulties, and to change work practices when appropriate
- willingness to reflect on, and learn from, mistakes
- preparedness to change management plans
- tolerance of uncertainty
- ability to cope with unexpected disappointments, equanimity, resiliency and calmness in the face of challenging clinical demands
- desire to contribute to improvements in the health system
- desire to foster clinical practice, research and teaching in general internal medicine
- preparedness to acknowledge doubt and uncertainty in clinical practice.

Specialty Training Programme Information

Medical College

[Royal Australasian College of Physicians \(RACP\)](#)

Fellowship/Qualification

Fellowship of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (FRACP) and/or Fellowship of the Australasian Chapter of Palliative Medicine

Application and Selection process

Application/selection [Basic training](#)

Application/selection [Advanced training in Palliative Medicine](#)

Contact details: PalliativeMedTraining@racp.edu.au

To find out more about physicians/paediatricians and other specialty areas, [click here](#). This also provides a useful Q&A section.

Further information can be obtained on [Royal Australasian College of Physicians \(RACP\)](#).

Resident Medical Officer (RMO) Information

Demand for vocational training posts is currently not available

RMO training registrar positions contracted

Northern	Midland	Central	South Island	Total
3	0	2	1.5	6.5

(September 2016 RMO census)

Regions

Northern:

Northland, Waitemata, Auckland, Counties Manukau DHBs

Midland:

Lakes, Tairāwhiti, Bay of Plenty, Waikato, Taranaki DHBs

Central:

Hawke's Bay, Wanganui, MidCentral, Wairarapa, Capital and Coast, Hutt Valley DHBs

South Island:

Nelson Marlborough, Canterbury, South Canterbury, Southern, West Coast DHBs

Senior Medical Officer (SMO) Information

Year	Number of NZ New Fellows
2015	NOT AVAILABLE
2014	NOT AVAILABLE

Average Age of SMOs	Number registered with the Medical Council	% of international medical graduates in the workforce
55	51	55

Number by Region (September 2016 SMO census)

Northern		Midland		Central		South Island		Total	
FTE	Headcount	FTE	Headcount	FTE	Headcount	FTE	Headcount	FTE	Headcount
6.1	9	0	0	3.3	5	3.4	5	12.8	19