

Thinking of Public Health Medicine?

Public health medicine is the epidemiological analysis of medicine concerned with the health and care of populations and population groups. It involves the assessment of health and health care needs, the development of policy and strategy, the promotion of health, the control and prevention of disease, and the organisation of services. Public health medicine also includes reducing inequalities across socioeconomic and cultural groups, and promoting environments in which everyone can be healthy.

Why consider a career in Public Health Medicine?

Diverse and interesting

It is a great opportunity to get involved in addressing the wide range of health issues affecting our population. You gain the ability to act on the upstream causes of ill health. Multiple career options are available, particularly in health sector leadership.

Further your education

You are fully funded through a Master of Public Health (MPH) degree.

Flexibility

Training positions are available across New Zealand. International placements and flexible training are possible.

Boutique, modern training programme

The training is competency-based with a limited number of registrars. You are treated as an individual and people know your name.

Commitment to the Treaty of Waitangi and improving Māori health

The training programme is designed to prepare you to effectively and consistently work towards reducing inequities and improving Māori Health.

Public Health Training

The training programme provides opportunities for you to develop your expertise in the practice of public health medicine. It offers teaching, guidance and development of core skills and professional attributes to prepare you for the variety of roles and challenges encountered in the workplace.

After two years of general medical experience, public health registrars complete four years of training:

- Basic Training (16 months) involves completion of a Masters in Public Health degree to the standard required by the College, as well as participation in other training activities.
- Advanced Training (29 months) involves employment at approved training sites as well as participation in other relevant training activities outside the work site.
- Throughout Basic and Advanced Training, registrars must demonstrate development of the core skills and professional attributes for Public Health Medicine.

Graduates of the training programme are eligible to apply to the New Zealand College of Public Health Medicine (NZCPHM) for Fellowship and to the Medical Council of New Zealand (MCNZ) for vocational registration in public health medicine.

Once registered, Fellows participate in the NZCPHM Tracking of Professional Standards (TOPS) Programme or an alternative Continuing Professional Development (CPD) programme approved for Public Health Medicine Specialists by the MCNZ. For further details of the TOPS programme can be found [here](#).

Through the NZCPHM's John McLeod Fund, financial support is available for Māori and Pasifika registrars. Click [here](#) for details. The NZCPHM also offers full reimbursement of the training programme application fee for successful Māori and Pasifika applicants.

Personal qualities required to work in Public Health Medicine

- Honest and ethical behaviour
- Effective written and oral communication skills
- An analytical and enquiring mind
- Cultural competence
- Good team work skills
- A commitment to improve public health and reduce inequities
- A commitment to use evidence as the basis of practice
- A commitment to empower communities to act on public health issues that affect them
- A commitment to working in partnership with Māori

Specialty Training Programme Information

Medical College

The New Zealand College of Public Health Medicine ([NZCPHM](#))

Fellowship/Qualification

Fellow of the New Zealand College of Public Health Medicine (FNZCPHM)

Assessment requirements

Registrars are initially required to successfully complete a Master of Public Health (MPH) degree. After the MPH, registrars must successfully complete a series of formative and summative assessments including written reports, direct observations of various activities, and an oral examination. In order to graduate from the training programme, registrars must also have demonstrated in the workplace all the core skills and professional attributes required for public health medicine.

Recognition of Prior Learning

Registrars with previous experience or training in Public Health Medicine may apply to the NZCPHM for a reduction in training time.

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

Entry requirement	Application process	Selection criteria
<p>To be considered for entry into the training programme, applicants must have all of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• General registration with the Medical Council of New Zealand• A current MCNZ Practising Certificate• At least two years post graduate experience• New Zealand permanent residency or citizenship.	<p>Applications to the Training Programme open every year on 1 June.</p> <p>The application form and required documentation must be submitted electronically to the College office by the last working day of June.</p> <p>Please note that an application fee applies.</p>	<p>The selection process consists of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review of the application form and supporting information to determine applicants for short-listing• Satisfactory written reports from two referees• Interview of short-listed candidates. Interviews are held in Wellington in late July for positions commencing on 1 March of the following year. <p>Training places are subject to the continued availability of funding from Health Workforce New Zealand.</p>

Further information can be obtained at www.nzcphm.org.nz/education-training

Resident Medical Officer (RMO) Information

Demand for Vocational Training Posts

Year	Number of applications for training year	Number of applicants selected
2016	11	3
2015	15	10
2014	14	7
2013	8	6
2012	11	9
2011	7	7
2010	9	7

Vocational Training Posts contracted

Northern	Midland	Central	Southern	Total
1.6	0.6	1.6	1.4	5.2

*Figures from September 2015 RMO census

Some of the training sites used in the last five years

DHBs (e.g. Public Health Units; Planning and Funding), Ministry of Health (e.g. Office of the Chief Medical Officer, National Screening Unit, Department of Public Health, Eru Pomare Research Centre, Health & Disability Intelligence, Māori Health Business Unit), Health Quality and Safety Commission, National Heart Foundation, Fred Hollows Foundation, University of Auckland (e.g. National Institute for Health Innovation, School of Population Health), Institute of Environmental Science and Research, Wellington and Christchurch Schools of Medicine, PHARMAC, Office of the Children's Commissioner, Public Health Association, NZ Child and Youth Epidemiology Service, Canterbury Initiative, NZ Pharmacovigilance Centre, Senior Sector Trials Unit Ministry of Social Development.

Information on Consultants

NZ New Fellows

Year	Number
2016	6
2015	4
2014	8
2013	7
2012	7
2011	8
2010	10

Number of Public Health Medicine Specialists registered with the Medical Council: 178

Average Age of SMOs: 51

Employment situation (*Public Health Medicine Workforce 2015*)

	Number of PHMS employed
Ministry of Health	17
Central Government Agency	7
DHB/Public health Unit	61
University	41
Non-Government Agency	11
Commercial Company	3
Private Practice/Independent Consultant	18
TOTAL	158