

Thinking of Urgent Care?

Urgent care is the study of urgent medical care delivered from community urgent care clinics. Urgent care clinics are typically open seven days per week until at least 8pm, have an x-ray on site, and manage urgent medical problems or accidents. Urgent care is the 13th largest of the 36 branches of medicine that the Medical Council of New Zealand recognises. It is the second largest branch by face-to-face patient consultations, with over two million consultations per annum.

Career Prospects in Urgent Care

- Career prospects in Urgent Care are excellent.
- Doctors training in urgent care can begin work in an urgent care facility immediately.
- Urgent care doctors typically earn well immediately.
- Urgent care clinics can have flexible work hours.
- Some urgent care physicians work in hospital emergency departments.
- The urgent care training programme is designed to be able to be completed part-time and is suitable for trainees wishing to raise a family or pursue other non-medical interests whilst training.
- There are a range of career options including owning or part-owning a business, being salaried or working on consultancy terms.
- There is a significant shortage of urgent care doctors, with only one half of urgent care patients currently seen by urgent care doctors.

Specialty Training

The Royal New Zealand College of Urgent Care (RNZCUC) sets the standards for urgent care training and recertification, and for urgent care clinics.

Personal qualities required to be a Specialist

- Excellent written and verbal communication, with good note-keeping practices.
- Able to prioritise
- Pragmatic
- Able to 'change gears' to manage periods of high demand.
- Leadership skills, especially for medical directors.

Specialty Training Programme Information

- **Medical College**
 - The Royal New Zealand College of Urgent Care, [RNZCUC](#)
- **Fellowship/Qualification**
 - Fellow of the Royal New Zealand College of Urgent Care (FRNZCUC)
- **Accreditation requirements**

Completion of:

 - The urgent care course (UCC), a one-year distance learning course with online material hosted by the University of Auckland's Goodfellow Unit.
 - PALS course (two days in attendance).

- Urgent care trauma course (one day in attendance).
- Communication skills course (one day in attendance).
- Urgent care practical skills (two days in attendance).
- Urgent care primary exam (UCPEX)

Additional accreditation requirements:

- A minimum of 400 hours per annum of patient consultations.
- Three distance learning university papers.
- Four years' (3000 hours) experience.
- Peer groups, CME activities, supervision, clinical notes audits.

Further details [Accreditation requirements](#)

- **Entry requirement**

- Registration with the MCNZ or other RNZCUC-approved registration body.
- Current annual practising certificate.
- One year of supervised postgraduate general medical training, including one pre-registration intern year and one year including posts in general medicine and/or surgery in full time supervised positions as approved by RNZCUC.
- Current link for entry requirements: [Accreditation requirements](#)

- **Application process**

- To apply for membership of the college, complete the application form: [Application](#)
- Send your CV to the Director of Clinical Training (david.sorrell@rnzcuc.org.nz).
- Your application is reviewed by the Board of Censors.
The Board of Censors will reply outlining any credit for prior learning and experience, and the remaining requirements for fellowship.

- **Recognition of Prior Learning**

- Holders of an urgent care or emergency medicine fellowship from a country on the MCNZ-CHS list may be eligible for the RNZCUC's accelerated pathway to fellowship. These are considered on a case-by-case basis.
- Recognition of prior training is granted if the courses completed are deemed to be equivalent or of higher standard than those required.
- Up to 1,500 hours of urgent care or emergency department clinical experience completed prior to starting the urgent care accreditation training MAY BE RECOGNISED.
- Current link for prior learning information: [Fellowship Criteria](#)

- **Transferability of registration to other countries/across training sites**

Currently New Zealand is the only country where urgent care is recognised as a vocational speciality. RNZCUC has overseas trainees and is assisting with the establishment of urgent care as a specialist branch in other countries.

Resident Medical Officer (RMO) Information

Demand for vocational Training Posts

Year	Number of applications for training year	Number of applicants for training year selected
2017	Not available	49
2016	Not available	48
2015	Not available	40
2014	Not available	47
2013	Not available	38
2012	Not available	37
2011	Not available	24
2010	Not available	19
2009	Not available	16

RMO training registrar positions contracted

Northern	Midland	Central	South Island	Total
0	0	1	0.5	1.5

(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
2016	172
2015	141
2014	131
2013	124
2012	120

Average Age of SMOs	Number registered with the Medical Council	% of international medical graduates in the workforce
51	174	54

Number by Region (September 2016 SMO census)

Northern		Midland		Central		South Island		Total	
FTE	Headcount	FTE	Headcount	FTE	Headcount	FTE	Headcount	FTE	Headcount
3.6	4	5.8	8	0.0	0	0.0	0	9.3	12