

PALLIATIVE CARE PATHWAY

What is the NSW Rural Generalist Medical Training Program?

The NSW Rural Generalist Medical Training Program is for doctors who join General Practice (GP) Training and wish to obtain an advanced skill in a medical discipline. The Program is integrated with the GP training pathway and is generally up to four (4) years in duration (depending on the year of entry).

The Program aims to provide junior doctors with a supported training pathway to a career as a rural generalist providing primary care in the rural general practice setting, and an advanced skill for the benefit of their rural community.

The Program is managed by the Health Education and Training Institute.

The Program includes a foundation year (which may be in either a hospital setting or in general practice), a year of advanced skills training and up to two years of support to consolidate advanced skills while training in a rural or remote general practice.

Rural Generalist Palliative Medicine Pathway

The Rural Generalist Palliative Medicine Pathway aims to increase the number of GPs with advanced skills in Palliative Medicine who may work in rural and remote communities to support the delivery of a co-ordinated palliative care service.

The Program provides orientation and learning opportunities, exposure to clinical experiences in regional and rural Palliative Medicine care



settings and supervision by expert Palliative Medicine specialists and Rural Generalist mentors.

Rural Generalist Palliative Medicine Training

Training will be determined by the services in the training location, while allowing for flexibility in training experiences. A trainee may undertake Palliative Medicine learning opportunities including inpatient care, oncology and community based care.

Some Palliative Care training sites are more suitable for trainees who are PGY4 or above and in this case may have completed a year of general practice or emergency medicine training prior to undertaking Palliative Care training.

NSW RURAL GENERALIST MEDICAL TRAINING PROGRAM

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Pre-requirement for Advanced Skills Training

During the Rural Generalist Foundation Year trainees are not required to be enrolled on a general practice training pathway. However trainees must have made application or be enrolled prior to being considered for Advanced Skills Training.

Proof of enrolment is required prior to commencement of the Advanced Skills Training Year. The trainee needs to show proof of enrolment with their GP College. In addition Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) trainees need to show enrolment in the Fellowship of Advanced Rural General Practice (FARGP). Trainees must also be enrolled in a training scheme, either:

A) Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) [AGPT](#)

Note: If enrolled in the AGPT trainees are required to be enrolled with GP Synergy in NSW. Further details may be accessed at: [gpsynergy.com.au](#)

B) Remote Vocational Training Scheme (RVTS) [rvts.org.au](#)

OR

C) Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) Independent Pathway. [acrrm.org.au](#)

Palliative Medicine Curricula

Trainees undertaking the advanced skills year will undertake the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) Clinical Diploma of Palliative Medicine. The Clinical Diploma in Palliative Medicine program is oversighted by the Training Committee in Palliative Medicine (TCPM).

Over the four-year program trainees will follow their appropriate GP College curriculum for the pathway. It is recommended trainees seek advice from their respective GP college regarding the relevant curriculum and training for their proposed Fellowship

Posts are also accredited by the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) and the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) for GP training.

RACP curriculum for the Clinical Diploma of Palliative Medicine available at: [racp.edu.au](#)

RACGP Advanced Rural Skills Training – Curriculum for Palliative Care available at: [racgp.org.au](#)

ACRRM curriculum for Advanced Specialised Training – Palliative Care available at: [acrrm.org.au](#)

Locations for Training

Training on the Palliative Medicine Pathway may be undertaken in a combination of regional and rural NSW Health facilities and community general practice.

Locations for Advanced Skills Training are determined each year in consultation with rural local health districts and are dependent on availability and vacancies. The Health Education and Training Institute cannot guarantee a specific post will be available.

How do I Apply?

Entry to Program: Recruitment to the Program is conducted annually. Applications for the Rural Generalist Foundation Year open mid-September each year. For information on dates and to register for updates, visit the Program website: [heti.nsw.gov.au/rgtp](#)

Subsequent vacant posts: Rural Generalist Foundation Year trainees are allocated to advanced skills training positions in June each year. Vacant posts available following the Rural Generalist Foundation Year allocation are advertised for eligible general practice trainees through the NSW Junior Medical Officer Recruitment Campaign opening in late July. See [health.nsw.gov.au](#)

Note: the information in this brochure is in regard to the NSW Rural Generalist Medical Training Program. For information on all other aspects of GP training please refer to the respective college or training organisation.