

Medical Practitioner

A career in health fact sheet series

Careers in Medicine

Medical Practitioners or Doctors diagnose, treat and assist in the prevention of human physical and mental illness, disease and injury and promote good human health. Medical practitioners are involved in a wide range of activities including consultations, attending emergencies, performing operations and arranging medical investigations. In caring for patients, medical practitioners work with many other health professionals.

What does a Medical Practitioner do?

- Examine patients to determine the nature of the disorder or illness
- Order, perform and analyse laboratory tests, X-rays etc
- Prescribe and administer treatments, medications and other remedial measures
- Provide advice to patients on diet, exercise, hygiene and general health
- Vaccinate patients to prevent infectious or contagious diseases
- Report births, deaths and notifiable diseases to government authorities
- Provide pre- and post-natal care
- Admit patients to hospital
- Refer patients to other medical specialists
- Provide specialist medical care if they have pursued a particular area of medical skills.

Where can Medical Practitioners work in Queensland Health?

Medical Practitioners may work in large metropolitan hospitals, regional hospital, or small hospitals in rural and remote areas; specialist centres; general practitioner clinics; community health services; teaching; research; or a combination of these areas.

After obtaining their medical degree, new graduates work as interns in a general hospital for a further 12 months to become fully registered, and then at least a further year as Resident Medical Officers, prior to commencing specialist training.

“Medicine is bigger than most people think. There is such a broad range of career paths and opportunities for development. My job is challenging and stimulating, and I enjoy helping people. I love my job and get great job satisfaction from working with other health professionals towards the same goal.”

Mellissa Naidoo, Registrar In Medical Administration

Is this you?

- good communication skills
- self-confidence
- conscientiousness
- able to relate to people
- compassion for others
- a high degree of motivation and self-discipline.



What is a Medical Specialist?

Specialists are first trained as Medical Practitioners or Doctors to gain their basic medical qualifications. Entry to the various specialisations requires postgraduate study, experience in approved hospitals and the passing of examinations leading to membership of the appropriate professional college.

Medical specialities

You can find out more about each of these special areas of Medicine by going to the listed college website.

Anaesthetics The Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists www.anzca.edu.au

Dermatology The Australasian College of Dermatologists www.dermcoll.asn.au

Emergency Medicine The Australasian College for Emergency Medicine www.acem.org.au

General Practice The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners www.racgp.org.au

Intensive Care The Joint Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine www.jficm.anzca.edu.au

Medical Administration The Royal Australasian College of Medical Administrators www.racma.edu.au

Medicine or Physicians The Royal Australasian College of Physicians www.racp.edu.au

Obstetrics and Gynaecology The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists www.ranzcog.edu.au

Pathology The Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia www.rcpa.edu.au

Psychiatry The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists www.ranzcp.org

Radiology The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists www.ranzcr.edu.au

Rural and Remote Medicine www.acrrm.org.au

Surgery The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons www.surgeons.org

How do you become a Medical Practitioner?

To become a Medical Practitioner you have to study medicine at university. The various universities have different prerequisites therefore it is advisable check each one's requirements. Following completion of any of these courses, graduates must undertake one year of full-time employment (internship) at a recognised teaching hospital to be able to gain full registration as a medical practitioner with the Medical Board.

What scholarships are available?

There are a variety of scholarships and forms of financial assistance available both in Queensland and nationally. You may also like to check out what university and/or local scholarships are available.

State scholarship:

- Queensland Health Rural Scholarships Scheme www.health.qld.gov.au/orh/scholarships/qhrss/rural.asp

Do great things every day

National scholarships:

- John Flynn Placement Program www.acrrm.org.au
- Medical Rural Bonded Scholarships www.health.qld.gov.au/orh/scholarships/qhbms/medical.asp
- Rural Australia Medical Undergraduate Scholarships <http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/scholarships/?IntCatId=7>
- Indigenous People's Medical Scholarship www.ama.com.au/node/4350
- Australian Defence Force Scholarships www.defencejobs.gov.au/education/university/SponsoredUndergraduate.aspx

Where can I find out more info?

James Cook University Faculty of Health, Life and Molecular Sciences Townsville Qld

Phone: (07) 4781 4409

Website: www.jcu.edu.au/school/medicine

The University of Queensland School of Medicine, Herston Qld

Phone: (07) 3365 5278

Website: www.som.uq.edu.au

Griffith University Faculty of Health Sciences, Gold Coast Qld

Phone: (07) 5552 9207

Website: www.gu.edu.au

Bond University, Gold Coast Qld

Phone: (07) 5595 5499

Website: www.bond.edu.au

The GAMSAT exam

The GAMSAT Office

Phone: (03) 9277 5710

Website: www.gamsat.edu.au

Australian Medical Association of Queensland (AMAQ) Kelvin Grove Qld

Phone: (07) 3872 2222

Website: www.amaq.com.au

Australian Medical Association (AMA) Barton ACT

Phone: (02) 6270 5400

Website: www.ama.com.au

Rural Doctors Association of Queensland (RDAQ) Brisbane Qld

Phone: (07) 3221 3748

Website: www.rdaq.com.au

The QTAC website has a list of universities and tertiary institutions with links to universities and courses offered. Go to www.qtac.edu.au and select Institutions.

To find out more about the exciting career opportunities Queensland Health can offer you go to www.health.qld.gov.au/workforus