

# A CAREER IN URGENT CARE?

## ABOUT URGENT CARE

Urgent care is the 13th largest of the 35 branches of medicine that the Medical Council of New Zealand recognises.

It is the study of urgent medical care delivered from community **urgent care clinics**.

**Urgent care clinics** are typically open seven days until at least 8pm, have x-ray on site and manage urgent medical problems and accidents.

Urgent care's 'nearest neighbours' are emergency medicine and general practice.

It is the second largest branch by face-to-face patient consultations, with over two million consultations per annum.

Some urgent care physicians (about 30%) work in hospital emergency departments, but with a collegial relationship (as defined by the MCNZ) with an emergency medicine specialist.

The advantages of urgent care as a career include:

- \* Ability to begin work and earn well immediately.
- \* Training programme designed to be able to be done part-time, e.g. while raising a family.
- \* Flexible work hours.
- \* Option of owning and running a business, partial ownership, or salaried / consultancy terms with no ownership.

## RNZCUC

Urgent Care training is administered and provided by the Royal New Zealand College of Urgent Care ([www.rnzcuc.org.nz](http://www.rnzcuc.org.nz)). RNZCUC has approximately 300 members, 30% hospital based, 70% community based, of whom there are approximately 130 Fellows and 170 trainees.

## TRAINING INFORMATION

### INTRODUCTION

The RNZCUC training programme leads to Fellowship in Urgent Care. [Fellowship criteria](#) include four years and 3,000 hours of experience. Up to 1,500 hours of prior experience can be recognised.

The main parts of the programme are:

- The [Urgent Care Course](#) and [UCPEX](#) examination
- Three [university papers](#), and
- An [accreditation](#) process.

### ELIGIBILITY

Doctors must be fully registered with the MCNZ or other RNZCUC-approved registration body, and providing [urgent care](#) from a facility [approved by RNZCUC for training](#). Trainees who join at the end of the first hospital year must have a study plan approved by RNZCUC.

## HOW TO JOIN THE TRAINING PROGRAMME

Complete the [online application form](#).

## COST OF TRAINING

NZ Residents may be eligible for [HWNZ funding](#) which aims to cover trainees' out-of-pocket expenses (including those listed below). As at February 2014, the main costs, approximately, are:

UCC: \$7165

UCPEX: \$520

RNZCUC Membership / training fee: \$800 per annum

University papers (\*3): \$1200 each paper for residents; \$4,000 for non-residents.

Please note these costs are approximate, exclude GST, and are subject to change.

## RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING AND EXPERIENCE

Exemptions may apply for components of training, including:

1. Up to 1,500 hours' experience – i.e. half the time / experience requirement.
2. University papers
3. Communications Day, Trauma Day, ACLS Weekend, Practical Skills Weekend

See <http://rnzcuc.org.nz/Portals/0/AccreditationHandbook.pdf> - exemption page.

## ACCELERATED PATHWAY TO FELLOWSHIP

Holders of a Fellowship in an Emergency Medicine College may apply for RNZCUC's Accelerated Pathway to Fellowship, comprising an individualised training and assessment programme. Fellowship can be awarded in as little as six months.

## DOCTORS WITH OVERSEAS OR ALTERNATIVE URGENT CARE QUALIFICATIONS

Urgent care is well established in many countries, notably Australia, Ireland and the United States. For now though, New Zealand is the only country in which urgent care is recognised as a branch.

RNZCUC has a process for 'mapping' alternative training to RNZCUC training and prescribing additional training and assessment to give equivalence with RNZCUC Fellowship.

Please refer to the [Overseas Doctors](#) page for more information.