



The Royal Australasian
College of Physicians

Physician Readiness for Expert Practice

Advanced Training in Clinical Genetics

2015 Program Requirements Handbook

Adult Medicine Division

Paediatrics & Child Health Division



Updates to this handbook for 2015

Changes to program requirements	Rationale for changes
The Professional Qualities Reflection is a new recommended requirement. Four are recommended per 12-month period.	To increase the opportunities for trainees to reflect on learning about professional areas of practice.

Changes to handbook content
<i>Handbook content is revised every year. Sections of this handbook have been updated for ease of access to information and reworded to clarify and enhance content for trainees and supervisors.</i>

Quick links

Section	Description
Program overview	An at-a-glance guide providing key information about the training program.
Requirements overview	An at-a-glance guide to the requirements of the training program.
Important dates	A list of due dates and recommended timeframes for completing training requirements.
Education policies	Contains a list of education policies with hyperlinks to each policy document on the College website.
Trainee responsibilities	Outlines the responsibilities of trainees as adult learners in the training program.
College support for trainees	Provides information about activities that the College undertakes to support trainees.
Supervision roles	Outlines relevant supervision roles.
College support for supervisors	Provides a brief summary of the College's Supervisor Support Strategy, with links to the College website for further information.
Glossary of terms	Provides definitions for terminology and acronyms used in this handbook.

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Introduction

About this handbook

This handbook outlines the complete program requirements for the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (the College) Physician Readiness for Expert Practice (PREP) Advanced Training in Clinical Genetics.

Over the course of the training program, trainees must carry out a variety of teaching and learning activities, assessments and other program requirements in consultation with their supervisors. Satisfactory completion of the requirements set out in this handbook is a prerequisite for admission to Fellowship of the College or completion of post-Fellowship training.

This handbook includes information for both Australian and New Zealand based trainees and supervisors. Where not specified as being particular to either Australia or New Zealand, information applies to trainees and supervisors in both countries.

This handbook helps trainees to satisfy the requirements for progressing through and completing this training program.

This handbook helps supervisors to identify training program requirements and facilitate learning experiences for trainees under their supervision.

This handbook is to be read in conjunction with the relevant [curriculum standards](#).

2015 edition

This handbook applies to trainees registered in Australia or New Zealand in 2015. Program requirements as specified in the handbook apply to all trainees in a PREP program, regardless of the year in which they commenced PREP Advanced Training. A trainee is considered to be in a PREP Advanced Training Program if they first enrolled in that program from 2011 onwards.

Overseeing committees regularly evaluate their training requirements to ensure that they are in line with educational best practice, and requirements are published and communicated annually. Changes to the training program that may substantially impact a trainee's plan for training will be implemented following an extended period of notice. It is the trainee's responsibility to ensure that they are following the correct handbook.

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The training program

Advanced Training:

- provides a 'depth' of training in a specialty field under supervision
- builds on the skills developed in preceding training while increasing in complexity, sophistication and responsibility
- prepares trainees for independent practice as consultants.

Program overview

Table 1 – Overview of Advanced Training in Clinical Genetics

Program	Advanced Training in Clinical Genetics
Overseeing committee	Specialist Advisory Committee in Clinical Genetics
Entry requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Completion of RACP Basic Physician Training, including the RACP Written and Clinical Examinations• Current Medical Registration• Appointment to an appropriate Advanced Training position
Minimum duration	3 years (full-time equivalent)
Curricula	Clinical Genetics Advanced Training Curriculum Professional Qualities Curriculum
Qualification	Fellowship of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (FRACP) NB: Metabolic medicine and cancer genetics represent subspecialties within clinical genetics, and are not recognised by regulators in Australia or New Zealand as specialties in their own right. Certification as a subspecialist in cancer genetics or metabolic medicine can be provided by the Human Genetics Society of Australasia.

Entering the program

Trainees may commence an Advanced Training Program following satisfactory completion of Basic Training requirements, including success in the Divisional Written and Clinical Examinations, and appointment to an appropriate Advanced Training position.

Candidates must secure an Advanced Training position at a suitable training site. Core training usually needs to be undertaken at training sites accredited by the College for Advanced Training in the relevant specialty. For further information about the accreditation of training settings, please refer to the [Accreditation of settings](#) section of this handbook.

Some specialty groups conduct coordinated selection processes for appointing trainees to training positions. Details of participating states, regions and specialties are available on the [College website](#) from June each year.

Please note that the College is not responsible for trainee recruitment and has no role in the recruitment process.

Once trainees have secured a training position, they must apply for the approval of their training in accordance with the due dates detailed in Table 2. Applications can be made online via the [College website](#) (Australian trainees) or through submission of a hardcopy or emailed application

form (New Zealand trainees). Trainees must organise the timely submission of all necessary documentation and keep a copy of the application for future reference.

Table 2 – Closing dates for applications

15 February	Closing date for applications for prospective approval of rotations in the current year
31 August	Closing date for applications for prospective approval of rotations in the second half of the current year

Re-registration

Throughout training trainees must continue to maintain registration with the College. All training periods must be applied for prospectively and approved, as set out in the [Progression through Training Policy](#).

Training fees

Information about current training fees and terms and conditions is available on the [College website](#).

Curricula

RACP curriculum standards outline the learning objectives and associated knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviours required from graduates of College training programs.

The program-specific curriculum standards are to be used in conjunction with the Professional Qualities Curriculum, which outlines the range of non-clinical/non-program-specific knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviours required of, and commonly used by, all physicians regardless of specialty or area of expertise.

The program-specific and Professional Qualities curricula can be found on the [College website](#).

The curricula enable trainees to:

- clarify expectations of their training outcomes, by clearly identifying the knowledge, skills and experiences they should acquire during training
- assess their progress, set their learning goals and evaluate the suitability of their training experiences
- demonstrate the knowledge and skills they have acquired during a training term
- identify the areas of knowledge and skill that require further development.

Reading the curricula will help trainees to gauge what skills and attributes are required in their chosen specialty. It may also help guide their future learning in terms of the experiences and jobs they will need to plan for in order to meet the training requirements.

Program requirements and policies

Requirements overview

Core training (minimum 24 months)	Non-core training (maximum 12 months)
Content	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical Genetics Advanced Training Curriculum • Professional Qualities Curriculum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical Genetics Advanced Training Curriculum • Professional Qualities Curriculum
Supervision	
Per rotation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 supervisors with FRACP or equivalent 	Per rotation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 supervisors with FRACP or equivalent
Teaching and learning requirements	
Per rotation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Learning Needs Analysis Per year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 Professional Qualities Reflection (recommended) 	Per rotation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Learning Needs Analysis Per year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 Professional Qualities Reflection (recommended)
Assessment	
Per rotation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Final Supervisor's Report Per year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Mid-Year Progress Report (for 12-month rotations) • 4 Case-based Discussion • 4 Case Report 	Per rotation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Final Supervisor's Report Per year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Mid-Year Progress Report (for 12-month rotations) • 4 Case-based Discussion • 4 Case Report
By the end of Advanced Training: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 satisfactory research project • Completion of an approved university genetics course • Laboratory experience: 1 week in a cytogenetics diagnostic laboratory; 1 week in a molecular laboratory; 1 week in a biochemical genetics laboratory • Completion of tertiary counselling course (recommended) • Paediatrics & Child Health Trainees only: Developmental and Psychosocial Training (Australia) or Developmental and Psychosocial Training (New Zealand)* • Advanced Life Support Course (if not already completed during Basic Training) (New Zealand Paediatrics & Child Health Trainees only) 	

For Advanced Training in Clinical Genetics:

36 months of certified training time consisting of:

- 30 months of core training:
 - 12 months general clinical genetics
- 6 months of non-core training**

For Advanced Training in Clinical Genetics subspecialising in metabolic medicine:

36 months of certified training time consisting of:

- 30 months of core training:
 - 6 months general clinical genetics
 - 24 months metabolic medicine
- 6 months of non-core training**

For Advanced Training in Clinical Genetics subspecialising in cancer genetics:

36 months of certified training time consisting of:

- 12 months of core general clinical genetics
- 24 months of cancer genetics

*Completion of all requirements of the Advanced Training in Clinical Genetics 36-month training program will satisfy the Developmental and Psychosocial Training component.

**A maximum of 6 months can be spent in relevant non-core training. This time can be replaced by additional core training.

Program requirements

Program requirements are the components of a training program that a trainee must complete in order to progress through training. Mandatory program requirements are linked to certification of training, both annually and when determining completion of training.

Program requirements are made up of formative and summative assessments; teaching and learning activities; the type and duration of clinical rotations; course work; and other requirements, such as minimum overall duration of training.

The College regularly evaluates training requirements to ensure that they are in line with educational best practice. Requirements are published and communicated annually. Changes to the training program that may substantially impact a trainee's plan for training will be implemented following an extended period of notice. It is the responsibility of the trainee to ensure that they read and follow the correct requirements.

Program requirements are set out in the tables below.

Time-based requirements

Training time and rotations
<p>Purpose</p> <p>To ensure adequate time for trainees to gain necessary learning experiences across a range of relevant rotations.</p>
<p>Total training time</p> <p>3 years (full-time equivalent)</p>
<p>Training rotations</p> <p><i>For Advanced Training in Clinical Genetics:</i></p> <p>36 months of certified training time consisting of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 months of core training: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 12 months general clinical genetics • 6 months of non-core training <p><i>For Advanced Training in Clinical Genetics subspecialising in metabolic medicine:</i></p>

Training time and rotations

36 months of certified training time consisting of:

- 30 months of core training:
 - 6 months general clinical genetics
 - 24 months metabolic medicine
- 6 months of non-core training

For Advanced Training in Clinical Genetics subspecialising in cancer genetics:

36 months of certified training time consisting of:

- 12 months of core general clinical genetics
- 24 months of cancer genetics

Definition of core training

Clinical Genetics (General)

Trainees must spend a minimum of 30 months FTE in accredited core clinical genetics training positions. Of this, 12 months must be devoted exclusively to general clinical genetics and should include:

- the equivalent of at least three clinics per week, which may include:
 - general clinical genetics
 - prenatal diagnosis clinic
 - other clinics, e.g. follow-up clinics for previous patients or specialty clinics, such as for cancer genetics or ophthalmological genetics.
- one journal club per week for Australian trainees, or at least one journal club per month for New Zealand trainees
- one review session per week, e.g.:
 - review of clinical cases seen
 - discussion of dysmorphology slides
 - discussion of counselling issues.

Throughout training, trainees are expected to attend the equivalent of one laboratory liaison per week on areas such as cytogenetics; molecular genetics; serum/prenatal screening; inborn errors of metabolism/biochemical genetics; neonatal screening.

During the three years of training, core experience should include at least a week experience in a cytogenetics diagnostic laboratory, a week in a diagnostic molecular laboratory and a week in a biochemical genetics laboratory.

Metabolic Medicine

At least six months FTE training is to be spent exclusively in general clinical genetics including:

- the equivalent of at least three clinics per week, which may include:
 - general clinical genetics
 - prenatal diagnosis clinic
 - other clinics, e.g. follow-up clinics for previous patients or specialty clinics, such as for cancer genetics or ophthalmological genetics.
- one journal club per week for Australian trainees, or at least one journal club per month for New Zealand trainees
- one review session per week, e.g.:
 - review of clinical cases seen
 - discussion of dysmorphology slides
 - discussion of counselling issues.

Throughout training, trainees are expected to attend the equivalent of one laboratory liaison per week on areas such as cytogenetics; molecular genetics; serum/prenatal screening; inborn errors of metabolism/ biochemical genetics; neonatal screening.

Training time and rotations

During the three years of training, core experience should include at least a week experience in a cytogenetics diagnostic laboratory, a week in a diagnostic molecular laboratory and a week in a biochemical genetics laboratory.

Trainees intending to specialise in metabolic medicine should spend at least two years FTE in metabolic medicine. Unless there are exceptional circumstances, it is expected that training be completed in more than one metabolic genetics centre.

Cancer Genetics

Trainees are required to complete 30 months of core training comprised of at least 12 months FTE training exclusively in general clinical genetics including:

- the equivalent of at least three clinics per week, which may include:
 - general clinical genetics
 - prenatal diagnosis clinic
 - other clinics, e.g. follow-up clinics for previous patients or specialty clinics, such as for cancer genetics or ophthalmological genetics.
- one journal club per week for Australian trainees, or at least one journal club per month for New Zealand trainees.
- one review session per week, e.g.:
 - review of clinical cases seen
 - discussion of dysmorphology slides
 - discussion of counselling issues.

Trainees are also required to complete at least 18 months FTE exclusively in clinical cancer genetics including:

- three family cancer clinics per week
- adequate exposure to oncology/paediatric oncology
- weekly attendance at a multidisciplinary cancer management meeting
- weekly journal club
- weekly laboratory liaison – primarily in molecular genetics; however, this should also include three months liaison in cancer cytogenetics
- the equivalent of at least one month's full-time experience in a diagnostic molecular genetics laboratory.

Throughout training, trainees are expected to attend the equivalent of one laboratory liaison per week on areas such as cytogenetics; molecular genetics; serum/prenatal screening; inborn errors of metabolism/ biochemical genetics; and neonatal screening. Throughout training, trainees are also required to revise and review the literature regarding oncology guidelines, such as EviQ, and contribute to familial cancer registries.

During the three years of training, core experience should include at least a week experience in a cytogenetics diagnostic laboratory, a week in a diagnostic molecular laboratory and a week in a biochemical genetics laboratory.

Definition of non-core training

Clinical Genetics (general)

A maximum of six months of non-core training may be undertaken in clinical training in other related disciplines, or in clinical genetics research. Trainees wishing to complete a period of non-core training must obtain prospective approval from the SAC.

Metabolic Medicine

A maximum of six months non-core training may be undertaken in a discipline relevant to metabolic medicine in areas such as metabolic/genetic research, biochemical laboratory,

Training time and rotations

newborn screening laboratory or other discipline related to metabolic medicine. Trainees wishing to complete a period of non-core training must obtain prospective approval from the SAC.

Cancer genetics

A maximum of six months of Advanced Training may be spent in clinical oncology (medical or surgical). Other disciplines may be acceptable. Trainees wishing to complete a period of non-core training must obtain prospective approval from the SAC.

Joint certification in clinical genetics (general) and cancer genetics

Trainees may choose to subspecialise in both clinical genetics (general) and cancer genetics by completing the cancer genetics requirements and a further six months (minimum) in general clinical genetics. Trainees should seek prospective approval for combined training from the SAC.

Training time in Australia/New Zealand

Trainees are required to complete a minimum of 36 months of Advanced Training in Clinical Genetics. At least 12 months of Advanced Training in Clinical Genetics must be undertaken in Australia and/or New Zealand.

Supervision

Supervision

Purpose

To provide trainees with appropriate support and guidance to complete the training program.

Core training

Per rotation:

- 2 supervisors with FRACP or equivalent

Non-core training

Per rotation:

- 2 supervisors with FRACP or equivalent

More information and resources

[Supervisor Support](#)

[Supervisor Professional Development Program](#)

[Supervisor Roles](#)

[Supervisor Workshops](#)

Teaching and learning activities

PREP teaching and learning activities are designed to support reflective practice and self-directed learning. A variety of teaching and learning activities are used throughout PREP training. These activities cater to a range of learning needs, styles and situations that may arise in workplace training, and aim to facilitate learning and enhance the attainment of desired learning outcomes.

Learning Needs Analysis
Purpose To embed the process of planning and evaluating learning in the trainee's practice.
Frequency Two per rotation
Timing One per six-month period, early in the rotation
Deadline for completion 31 January 2016
Training type Core and non-core training
Description <p>A Learning Needs Analysis involves the trainee creating a learning plan that outlines their learning objectives and goals for their current rotation. Trainees must refer to this throughout their rotation. At the conclusion of each training rotation, the trainee must evaluate their learning plan to determine whether they have achieved their desired goals, and identify additional areas to focus on in the future.</p> <p>The Learning Needs Analysis is linked to the learning objectives in the relevant program-specific curriculum and the Professional Qualities Curriculum. This tool helps trainees and supervisors to determine the learning opportunities that may be available for a given term. It can also facilitate discussions between a trainee and their supervisor, by allowing a trainee to identify particular skills and procedures that they would like to learn as they start their training rotation. Furthermore, it will allow trainees to review their progress on their learning plans at the end of each rotation.</p> <p>The Learning Needs Analysis is accessed via the Advanced Training Portal.</p>
More information and resources Learning Needs Analysis information sheet, workflow and other resources Learning Needs Analysis policy

Professional Qualities Reflection
<p>Purpose</p> <p>To help trainees to articulate and formalise ideas and insights about their professional development through the process of reflection.</p>
<p>Frequency</p> <p>4 per training year (recommended)</p>
<p>Timing</p> <p>Any time during the training year (recommended)</p>
<p>Description</p> <p>The purpose of the Professional Qualities Reflection is for trainees to articulate and formalise ideas and insights about their professional development through the process of reflection. The Professional Qualities Reflection is designed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • encourage critical thinking and reflection about trainees’ learning experiences • provide a structure for trainees to reflect on an event or series of events that have had an impact on their practice • facilitate the development of trainees’ ethical attitudes and behaviours • help trainees identify the link between their everyday experiences and the domains of the Professional Qualities Curriculum. <p>Trainees create a Professional Qualities Reflection via the Training Portal. Using the Professional Qualities Reflection online form, trainees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • describe the event or series of events that have impacted on them professionally • reflect on themselves as observers to the event or series of events and explain their responses including why they responded the way they did • describe insights they have gained from reflecting on the event or series of events and how the insights assisted them in developing their medical professionalism. <p>The supervisor then guides a discussion of the event with the trainee. In this discussion the supervisor encourages the trainee to critically reflect on the event, through analysis of the event and the associated issues and insights the trainee may have gained.</p> <p>The Professional Qualities Reflection is accessed in the Advanced Training Portal.</p>
<p>More information and resources</p> <p>Professional Qualities Reflection information sheet</p> <p>Professional Qualities Reflection workflow</p> <p>Professional Qualities Reflection policy</p>

Assessments

Trainees are required to complete both formative and summative assessments throughout training.

Formative assessments focus on assessment for learning through feedback and guidance. The College's formative assessments aid the trainee and supervisor through a formal feedback discussion, prompting areas for discussion highlighted by the trainee's performance. The College's formative assessments are based on existing workplace-based assessment methods and best practice in medical education.

Summative assessments focus on judgements about trainee progression, resulting in pass or fail decisions of a trainee's performance.

Case-based Discussion	
Purpose	To guide the trainee's learning through structured feedback and help the supervisor evaluate the expertise and judgement exercised in clinical cases. Case-based Discussion is a formative assessment.
Frequency	Four per year
Timing	Any time during the year prior to 15 September 2015
Deadline for completion	15 September 2015
Training type	Core and non-core training
Description	<p>A Case-based Discussion encounter involves a comprehensive review of a clinical case (or cases) between an Advanced Trainee and an assessor. The encounter evaluates the level of professional expertise and judgement exercised in clinical cases by a trainee.</p> <p>A Case-based Discussion encounter takes approximately 30 minutes, including feedback. The trainee is given feedback from the assessor across a range of areas relating to clinical knowledge, clinical decision making and patient management.</p> <p>The trainee must enter the data from the completed RACP Case-based Discussion rating form into the Advanced Training Portal as part of their record of training.</p>
More information and resources	<p>Case-based Discussion information sheet, workflow, rating form and other resources</p> <p>Case-based Discussion policy</p>

Mid-Year Progress Report	
Purpose	To provide trainees with structured feedback on their performance over the first six months of a 12-month rotation. This is a formative assessment.
Frequency	One per year (for 12-month rotations)
Timing	Completed mid-rotation
Deadline for completion	15 July 2015
Training type	Core and non-core training
Description	<p>The Mid-Year Progress Report is a formative assessment of the first half of a trainee's year of training during 12-month positions, completed by the trainee's supervisor(s).</p> <p>If the trainee's supervisor has not directly supervised the trainee throughout the first half of the year, they should obtain individual reports from those who have directly supervised the trainee, and provide a composite report.</p> <p>Supervisors should discuss the report with the trainee prior to both parties signing the report, and trainees should be provided with a copy of each report submitted to the College. The College retains the right to provide subsequent supervisors with copies of past reports.</p> <p>A Mid-Year Progress Report needs to be completed for Advanced Trainees in Australia in 12-month positions and submitted to the College by 15 July.</p> <p>A Mid-Year Progress Report is not required for trainees in positions of six months or less. These trainees should submit a Final Supervisor's Report for each rotation.</p>
More information and resources	Mid-Year Progress Report

Final Supervisor's Report
<p>Purpose To evaluate and provide feedback on the trainee's progress, which informs the certification of training decision. The Final Supervisor's Report is a summative assessment.</p>
<p>Frequency One per rotation</p>
<p>Timing See below</p>
<p>Deadline for completion</p> <p><i>Australia</i></p> <p>For Advanced Trainees in 12-month positions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a Final Supervisor's Report is to be submitted to the College by 31 January of the following year. <p>For Advanced Trainees in positions of six months or less with separate supervisors, or at separate sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a Final Supervisor's Report should be completed for each rotation and submitted to the College by 15 July (for first half of the year) and 31 January the following year (for the second half of the year). <p>For Advanced Trainees in their final year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a Final Supervisor's Report is to be submitted to the College by 15 October.
<p>Training type Core and non-core training</p>
<p>Description</p> <p>The Final Supervisor's Report is a summative assessment of the trainee's period of training completed by their supervisor(s). The Final Supervisor's Report must be completed by supervisors who have directly supervised the trainee. If the supervisor has not directly supervised the trainee throughout the whole rotation, the supervisor should obtain individual reports from those who have directly supervised the trainee and provide a composite report. Supervisors should discuss the report with the trainee prior to both parties signing the report, and trainees should be provided with a copy of each report.</p> <p>Progression to the next year of training is dependent upon the College receiving satisfactory Final Supervisor's Report(s) covering the full year/period of training completed.</p> <p>Trainees must provide copies of previous Supervisor's Report(s) to the next year's/rotation's supervisor. The College may provide subsequent supervisors with copies of past reports (and any other documents deemed relevant to the trainee's training).</p> <p>Trainees should refer to the Progression through Training Policy for further information.</p>
<p>More information and resources</p> <p>Final Supervisor's Report (Australia)</p> <p>Final Supervisor's Report (New Zealand)</p>

Case reports
<p>Frequency Four per year</p>
<p>Timing One/two per quarter</p>
<p>Deadline for completion 15 September 2015</p>
<p>Training type Core and non-core training</p>
<p>Description</p> <p>At least four case reports in each of the three years of training must be submitted to the College by 15 September in order to progress to the next year of training.^{1&2}</p> <p>Each case report should be based on each one of the Case-based Discussions submitted.</p> <p>For clinical genetics (general) and cancer genetics trainees, at least 2 of the total 12 case reports submitted over the three years of training must address clinical problems in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cytogenetics • Dysmorphology/clinical diagnosis • Molecular genetic testing/clinical correlation • Biochemical genetics • Prenatal diagnosis • Mendelian genetic problems, e.g. cystic fibrosis, Huntington's disease, myotonic dystrophy. <p>For metabolic medicine trainees, of the total 12 case reports submitted over the three years of training:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • at least 5 reports should focus on the discussion of treatment issues • at least 5 reports should discuss counselling/psychosocial issues in depth. <p>Publications may be submitted as case reports, although the trainee should be first author. A counselling issues section should be appended to publications submitted as case reports. No more than two publications per year should be submitted as case reports where it is not possible to include counselling issues (e.g. review articles).</p> <p>Acceptable standards for case reports</p> <p>Trainees must comply with the requirement of 1500–2000 words for each case report, not including references.</p> <p>Headings should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary • Referral details • Clinical section, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ History ○ Pedigree ○ Clinical examination ○ Differential diagnosis ○ Literature review • Counselling issues, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reasons for seeking assessment ○ Dilemmas faced by consult ○ Emotions, such as fear, grieving, guilt, anger and psychological defence mechanisms

- Consultant's understanding of discussion of testing, penetrance/occurrence risk, recurrence risk, natural history, variability, prenatal and/or diagnostic testing
- Benefits and limitations of testing uncertainty
- Offer of plans for counselling to relatives at risk
- Outcome follow-up/management
- Bibliography/reference list.

In addition, case reports should be written in sound English and be free from grammatical and typographical errors. A standard, consistent method of citing the literature should be used.

For metabolic medicine trainees, of a total of 12 case reports submitted over three years of training:

- At least 5 reports should focus on the discussion of management/treatment issues relevant to the case. A list (maximum 100 words) of relevant counselling/psychosocial issues should be included on a separate page.
- At least 5 reports should focus on the discussion of the counselling/psychosocial issues in depth. A list (maximum 100 words) of relevant management/treatment issues should be included on a separate page.
- In addition, 2 clinical general genetic case reports should be submitted. These should be written as outlined for trainees in clinical genetics.

¹ Trainees whose first six months of training are in a research position may apply to the Coordinator of Advanced Training for a variation of this rule for their first year, although the requirements for the second year will remain the same.

² If fewer than four cases have been received by the end of the first year, but there are specific circumstances which have made it difficult for the trainee to comply with this requirement, an extension until 28 February of the following year may be granted at the discretion of the Coordinator of Advanced Training. If this deadline is not met, the application to commence or continue training for that year will not be considered. The trainee would then have until 31 August to submit the cases in order for the second half of the year to be considered for approval. The same deadlines apply for trainees who have not submitted eight cases or had four cases approved by the end of the second year.

Information and training resources

[Case report cover sheet](#)

Research project
<p>Frequency</p> <p>One over the course of training</p>
<p>Timing</p> <p>The deadline for submission of a proposal for a research project is 15 September of the second year of training; however, it is strongly recommended that trainees submit a proposal by 15 September of the first year of training.</p>
<p>Deadline for completion</p> <p>Due to the College by 15 September of the third year of training</p>
<p>Training type</p> <p>Core and non-core training</p>
<p>Description</p> <p>A substantial research project on a topic relevant to the trainee’s clinical genetics subspecialty should be completed during the course of training. Trainees should be able to complete the research project concurrently with clinical training. A report must be submitted at the end of the project.</p> <p>The goals of the research project are for the trainee to gain experience in research methodology; to gain insight into the limitations and pitfalls of research in genetics; and to gain skills in critical evaluation of the research of others.</p> <p>In general, these goals will be met by the trainee conducting or taking a major role in a research project which could lead to publication in a peer-reviewed journal. Published case reports are not acceptable for this purpose, although a substantial case series may be. For example, an acceptable case series would be one in which a trainee obtains ethics approval, locates and contacts a large number of patients, examines these patients, collates and analyses the data and then presents the findings in a report of appropriate standard.</p> <p>In most instances, the trainee will be first author of the paper(s) submitted for assessment, although second or lower authorship may be acceptable if the trainee can demonstrate a substantial role in the project’s planning and execution. Mere provision of patient material to a research group will seldom, if ever, qualify.</p> <p>It is not required that the work be published at the time of submission. Unpublishable work may still be acceptable if the trainee can demonstrate that the goals of the research project have been met. For example, if a trainee spends a substantial amount of time developing laboratory methods for an assay that consequently does not add any importance to the understanding of the topic, no publication is likely to result. Nevertheless, the trainee will clearly have met the goals of the project.</p> <p>Role of the project supervisor</p> <p>The role of the project supervisor is to assist the trainee in the selection of the project and project design, and to guide the trainee in completion of the project. The project supervisor is not a joint author.</p> <p>The project supervisor is asked to certify that the project is ready for submission. Trainees must allow adequate time for their supervisor to read and provide feedback prior to the submission date.</p> <p>The project supervisor is required to report on the trainee’s role in the research, including the amount of time spent actually conducting the research (in hours per week and number of weeks). In laboratory projects, it should be made clear which experiments the trainee carried out at the bench, and which work was done by other laboratory personnel.</p> <p>Please see the link below to download the Research Project Supervisor’s Report, which will need to be completed by the project supervisor and submitted together with the research report.</p>

Research project

Acceptable project formats

Projects should be presented in a standard suitable for publication, adhering to the usual norms of scientific writing. Projects should provide defined aims, study design, methodology, results and a discussion of outcomes. The conclusions should relate to the aims.

Suggested headings include:

- Abstract
- Introduction
- Materials and methods (including ethical consideration and patient recruitment)
- Results to date
- Discussion (including problems encountered)
- Conclusions
- Plans for the future.

In addition, projects should be written in sound English and be free from grammatical and typographical errors. A standard, consistent method of citing the literature should be used.

Each Advanced Trainee is required to submit one written project during the three years of Advanced Training. Each project will be assessed by two independent reviewers. The deadline for submission of a proposal for a research project is 15 September of the second year of training; however, it is strongly recommended that trainees submit a proposal by 15 September of the first year of training. The research report must be submitted by 15 September of the third year of training.

Information and training resources

[Project report cover sheet](#)

[Research Project Supervisor's Report](#)

Other requirements

- Successful completion of an approved university genetics course, which includes coverage of:
 - segregation and linkage analysis
 - statistical approaches to risk interpretation
 - cytogenetics
 - molecular genetics
 - community genetics, including principles and practice of screening
 - developmental genetics
- Completion of a tertiary counselling course is recommended
- Attendance at hospital meetings, journal clubs and conferences
- Supervised experience in teaching undergraduate and postgraduate students in medical and non-medical disciplines is desirable
- Laboratory experience: one week in a cytogenetics diagnostic laboratory; one week in a molecular laboratory, one week in a biochemical genetics laboratory
- New Zealand Advanced Paediatric trainees who completed Basic Training prior to 2015 must complete an Advanced Life Support (paediatrics) course before the end of Advanced Training if this was not completed in Basic Training.

NB: Completion of the Developmental and Psychosocial Training component of paediatric training by clinical genetics trainees in Australia can be satisfied by completing all the requirements of Advanced Training in Clinical Genetics under the supervision of the SAC in Clinical Genetics. However, undertaking only a part of Advanced Training in Clinical Genetics will not satisfy this requirement.

Description of other requirements

Advanced Life Support (Paediatrics) course or equivalent (New Zealand Paediatrics & Child Health trainees only)
Frequency Once before the completion of Advanced Training if not already completed in Basic Training
Timing At any stage during Basic or Advanced Training
Description Trainees must complete an ALS course, or equivalent, prior to the completion of Advanced Training. Trainees must submit a certified copy of their ALS certificate to the relevant Advanced Training Unit (New Zealand) as proof of their completion of the course.
Developmental and Psychosocial Training (Australia) – Australian RACP Paediatrics & Child Health Division trainees only
<i>NB: Completion of the Developmental and Psychosocial component of paediatric training by clinical genetics trainees in Australia can be satisfied by completing all the requirements of Advanced Training in Clinical Genetics under the supervision of the SAC in Clinical Genetics. However, undertaking only a part of Advanced Training in Clinical Genetics will not satisfy this requirement.</i>
Purpose To assist trainees to develop a sophisticated understanding of child development, encompassing physical, cognitive, emotional, behavioural and social areas, which should be gained from the perspective of the child within the family and in the context of the community.
Frequency <i>Australia:</i> Once over entire training period (Basic Training <i>and</i> Advanced Training) <i>New Zealand:</i> Not required
Timing <i>Australia:</i> At any stage during Basic Training or Advanced Training
Duration <i>Australia:</i> Six months
Deadline for completion <i>Australia:</i> Must be completed by the end of Advanced Training
Training type Core and non-core training
Description <i>This is a requirement for Australian Paediatrics & Child Health trainees only.</i> The developmental and psychosocial component of training for all paediatricians was introduced to ensure that the changing nature of paediatric practice is reflected in the training programs undertaken within Australia. A mandatory period of training in developmental and behavioural aspects of paediatrics must be included in the program. Developmental and Psychosocial Training can be undertaken during Basic Training or Advanced Training regardless of whether trainees are undertaking general or specialty training. The training consists of a minimum six-month period in one or more of the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Developmental/behavioural paediatrics• Community paediatrics• Disability/rehabilitation paediatrics• Child protection

Developmental and Psychosocial Training (Australia) – Australian RACP Paediatrics & Child Health Division trainees only

- Child and adolescent mental health.

Trainees must nominate a supervisor for the Developmental and Psychosocial Training component; either during Basic Training or Advanced Training. A satisfactory Supervisor's Report for Developmental and Psychosocial Training will be required for the training to be certified.

The following are acceptable training options:

- Six months in a prospectively approved psychosocial training position. The six months must be completed as two three-month terms, a block of six months or as a continuous part-time position, i.e. 2.5 days per week for 12 months (please note that a conglomerate of experience for shorter time periods adding up to six months will not be acceptable).
- Six months in a prospectively approved rural position that has a documented weekly program in the psychosocial training areas and an appropriate level of supervision.
- Attendance at a prospectively approved clinic for two sessions a week for 18 months, or one session a week for three years, plus completion of an approved learning module.

An approved clinic is one that has involvement from other health/educational professionals, and where supervision is directed by a paediatrician experienced in an area or areas of Developmental and Psychosocial Training (such as behaviour, development, rehabilitation, and child protection).

An approved learning module includes one of the following options:

- Evidence of attendance at a lecture series devoted to the topics included in Developmental and Psychosocial Training in a recognised institution
- Three referenced case reports/essays (1500–2000 words) demonstrating a detailed understanding of three different issues in the areas of psychosocial training (e.g. rehabilitation, community paediatrics, etc.)
- Completion of the Griffith Mental Developmental Scales course
- Other prospectively approved modules may be considered.

More information and resources

[Final Supervisor's Report](#)

Developmental and Psychosocial Training (New Zealand) – New Zealand RACP Paediatrics & Child Health Division trainees only

Purpose

To assist trainees to develop a sophisticated understanding of child development, encompassing physical, cognitive, emotional, behavioural and social areas, which should be gained from the perspective of the child within the family and in the context of the community.

Frequency

Australia: Not required

New Zealand: Once over entire training period (Basic Training and Advanced Training)

Timing

New Zealand: At any stage during Basic Training or Advanced Training

Duration of rotations

New Zealand: Three months

Deadline for completion

Must be completed by the end of Advanced Training

Training type

Core and non-core training

Developmental and Psychosocial Training (New Zealand) – New Zealand RACP Paediatrics & Child Health Division trainees only

Description

This requirement is for New Zealand Paediatrics & Child Health trainees only.

The New Zealand Specialist Advisory Committee in General Paediatrics will determine whether this requirement has been met. The developmental and psychosocial training requirement may be met either during Basic Training or Advanced Training. All New Zealand registered paediatric trainees in other specialties are required to meet this requirement.

Developmental and psychosocial training can be undertaken during Basic Training or Advanced Training, regardless of whether trainees are undertaking general or specialty training. The psychosocial training consists of a minimum three-month period in one or more of the following areas:

- Developmental/behavioural paediatrics
- Community paediatrics
- Disability/rehabilitation paediatrics
- Child protection and adolescent psychiatry
- Adolescent medicine.

These areas reflect a holistic approach to the health problems of children and young people; they require an understanding of the roles and inter-relationships of many allied health and community-based services in a way that distinguishes them from experience in organ-based specialties.

Alternatively, trainees can gain the required experience by managing suitable cases over a longer period of time with appropriate supervision. This experience must be documented in a logbook.

Trainees should keep a record of at least 12 cases they have personally managed under supervision. Copies of clinical letters are not appropriate. There should be a summary of the issues involved, and how they were managed. These cases will normally be accumulated over a two-year period, and each case record must be signed by the supervisor. Examples of how this might be done are available from the College.

The range of conditions that should be included in the logbook are:

- Developmental problems, with a focus on the response of parents, families and caregivers to the diagnosis and ongoing care of the child with special needs
- Pervasive developmental disorders
- General learning disability – the behaviour problems that arise secondary to this condition
- Chronic illness – behavioural and psychological problems resulting from chronic illness, and parent and family difficulties resulting from chronic conditions, such as diabetes, epilepsy, chronic arthritis, chronic respiratory disease, physical disability and childhood cancer
- Common behavioural paediatric problems such as enuresis, encopresis, sleep disturbance, eating difficulties, attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder, conduct disorder, anxiety, depression, and preschool behavioural adjustment disorders.

The trainee should nominate a paediatrician with a special interest and skill in behavioural paediatrics or, where available, a child psychiatrist or paediatric clinical psychologist who will act as their supervisor.

The College program director will provide the nominated supervisor with information about the requirements for the logbook and will also review the logbook.

More information and resources

[Final Supervisor's Report](#)

[Psychosocial Logbook Template](#)

**Developmental and Psychosocial Training (New Zealand) – New Zealand RACP
Paediatrics & Child Health Division trainees only**

[Psychosocial Logbook Example](#)

Education policies

The policies listed below underpin all training requirements and are available on the [Education Policy web page](#) together with frequently asked questions and at-a-glance guides.

Education policy	Description
Academic Honesty and Plagiarism	Defines the responsibilities of trainees enrolled in College education programs (Division, Faculty or Chapter) in relation to academic honesty and plagiarism, and describes a process for dealing with identified cases of plagiarism (intentional and unintentional).
Accreditation of Training Settings	Defines the aims, principles, criteria and process for the accreditation of training settings for trainees enrolled in education programs provided by the College.
Assessment of Overseas Trained Physicians (Australia)	Defines the College's (including its Divisions, Chapters and Faculties) framework for determining if the training and experience of an overseas trained physician/paediatrician (OTP) is "substantially comparable", "partially comparable", or "not comparable" to that of an Australian-trained physician/paediatrician. The policy details the assessment process and possible outcomes, including additional assessment requirements, for OTP applicants for specialist recognition, appointment to an Area of Need position, and Fellowship of the College and/or its Chapters and Faculties.
Assessment of Overseas Trained Physicians (New Zealand)	Defines the framework used by the College (including its Divisions, Faculties and Chapters) for determining if the training, qualifications and experience of an OTP are comparable/equivalent to that of a New Zealand-trained physician/paediatrician. The policy details the assessment process and possible outcomes, including additional assessment requirements for OTP applicants for vocational registration.
Case-based Discussion	Defines the requirements for the Case-based Discussion for any College training program requiring use of the tool.
Continuing Professional Development Participation	Defines the continuing professional development (CPD) participation requirements for College Fellows and OTPs under peer review/supervision. This includes Fellows and OTPs of the Divisions, Faculties and Chapters.
Flexible Training	Defines the provisions for College trainees (Division, Faculty or Chapter), including Fellows in training, around time limit to complete training, leave entitlements, part-time training, and interrupted training, including parental leave.
Learning Needs Analysis (LNA)	Defines the requirements for the Learning Needs Analysis for any College training program requiring use of the tool.
Mini-Clinical Evaluation Exercise (Mini-CEX)	Defines the requirements for the mini-Clinical Evaluation Exercise for any College training program requiring use of the tool.
Participation by Fellows in Preparatory Courses for Assessments	Defines the obligations of Fellows in relation to participation in preparatory courses (commercial and non-commercial) or training sessions for centrally administered College assessments.

Education policy	Description
<u>Professional Qualities Reflection (PQR) (formerly known as Significant Incident Analysis Tool)</u>	Defines the requirements for the Professional Qualities Reflection (formerly known as Significant Incident Analysis Tool [SIAT]) for any College training program requiring use of the tool.
<u>Progression through Training</u>	Defines the requirements for College trainees (including Fellows in training) to gain certification of satisfactory progress in, and completion of, a College training program (Division, Faculty or Chapter).
<u>Recognition in a Subspecialty without completion of the relevant Advanced Training Program (Divisions)</u>	Defines the requirements for College Fellows (Adult Medicine or Paediatrics & Child Health) to be recognised by the College in a specialty different from that in which their Advanced Training Program was undertaken, or in a specialty undertaken before SACs/JSACs/STCs were established, on the basis of prior certified or experiential learning achieved through a substantial period of professional practice, acquired competence and professional development in that specialty.
<u>Recognition of Prior Learning</u>	Defines the requirements for recognition of prior learning (RPL) for trainees (in Australia and New Zealand) enrolled in College education programs (Division, Faculty or Chapter).
<u>Requirements for Undertaking Physician Training in Australia</u>	Defines the eligibility criteria for international medical graduates (IMGs) wishing to undertake a College training program in Australia in order to gain Fellowship of the College (Division, Faculty or Chapter). Outlines the requirements for College endorsement of specified training programs for IMGs wishing to undertake a period of physician training to enhance their expertise and experience without joining a College training program or gaining Fellowship.
<u>Special Consideration for Assessments</u>	Defines the requirements and processes for dealing with requests for special consideration in relation to centrally administered assessments undertaken by College trainees (in Australia and New Zealand).

Important dates

January–March

15 February

- Applications for Approval of Advanced Training due

Activities to be completed this quarter

- Learning Needs Analysis
- Case-based Discussion

April–June

Activities to be completed this quarter

- Learning Needs Analysis self-evaluation
- Case-based Discussion

July–September

15 July

- Mid-Year Progress Report for trainees in 12-month positions due
- Final Supervisor's Report for trainees in less than 12-month positions due

31 August

- Applications for Approval of Advanced Training for the second half of the year due

15 September

- Case Reports, Research Proposals and Research Projects due

Other activities to be completed this quarter

- Learning Needs Analysis
- Case-based Discussion

October–December

15 October

- Final Supervisor's Report due for trainees who are eligible for December 2015 Fellowship

Other activities to be completed this quarter

- Learning Needs Analysis self-evaluation
- Case-based Discussion

January 2016

31 January

- 2015 Final Supervisor's Report due for trainees not applying for Fellowship in December 2015

Training processes

Approval and Certification of training

For each period of training, a trainee must apply prospectively for approval of the proposed training program using the relevant application form. Approval of training periods will be determined by the overseeing committee. To be approved, a trainee's individual training program must be consistent with the training requirements and appropriate for the stage in training.

Upon completion of each rotation or calendar year of training, the overseeing committee considers each trainee's progress according to requirements. If all requirements of training have been satisfactorily completed, the overseeing committee will certify the period of training and advise the trainee in writing of the decision.

For more information about approval and certification of training, please refer to the [Progression through Training Policy](#).

Variations in training

Part-time training

Training may be undertaken full-time or part-time, or a combination of both. Refer to the [Flexible Training Policy](#) for information on the minimum load for part-time training and the time limit to complete a training program.

Dual training

Advanced Trainees may wish to complete more than one Divisional Training Program at a time; this is commonly known as dual training. In this case, the training requirements of both supervising committees must be satisfied. Once a trainee has completed the requirements of one specialty training program, they are awarded Fellowship (FRACP). For the remainder of their second specialty training they are considered a post-FRACP trainee.

Trainees undertaking dual training should apply for prospective approval of their Advanced Training Program by completing one application form that is submitted to the committee overseeing the specialty of most relevance to the rotation. Both committees will approve and certify training rotations according to their respective training curricula and program requirements.

In order to fulfil the minimum requirements of both supervising committees, trainees undertaking dual training must complete the greater number of teaching and learning and formative assessment tools required by each overseeing committee. For example, if one program requires trainees to complete two Learning Needs Analyses per year and the other program requires trainees to complete one Learning Needs Analysis per year, the dual trainee must complete two Learning Needs Analyses per year. Completed tools are not allocated to a particular training program, therefore completed tools count towards the requirements of both programs. If the trainee is undertaking training rotations which count towards only one training program, they must complete the minimum requirements of that program only.

Trainees considering undertaking dual training are strongly advised to contact the [Education Officers](#) for the two training programs before beginning dual training.

Joint training

A joint training program is a single, cohesive Advanced Training Program that results in the trainee being awarded more than one Fellowship. Joint training programs are usually conducted in conjunction with other postgraduate medical colleges. Joint training programs offer significantly

reduced overall training time when compared with the time it would take to achieve both Fellowships separately. An example of one joint training program is the Infectious Diseases and Microbiology program run jointly by the College (RACP) and the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (RCPA). The College's joint training programs are listed in [Appendix I](#).

Conjoint training

Conjoint training involves a trainee undertaking two separate programs independently, each leading to the award of a different Fellowship. This may refer to training conjointly in two College programs (e.g. Divisional training in Geriatric Medicine and Faculty training in Rehabilitation Medicine), or training conjointly in a College program and a program run by another organisation (e.g. training in Addiction Medicine with the College and training in Addiction Psychiatry with the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists).

Conjoint trainees are required to complete the administrative processes and program requirements for each of the programs they are undertaking.

Transfer between Adult Medicine and Paediatrics & Child Health Training

Trainees wishing to transfer from training in Adult Internal Medicine to Paediatrics & Child Health and vice versa should refer to the [Recognition of Prior Learning Policy](#). Trainees transferring from Adult Internal Medicine to Paediatrics & Child Health must fulfil the Developmental and Psychosocial Training requirements (Australia or New Zealand) prior to admission to Fellowship.

Post-Fellowship training

Post-Fellowship training is available to College Fellows who wish to complete a program of Advanced Training in another specialty.

Such training is prospectively approved, supervised and involves the same requirements as the pre-Fellowship training program, unless otherwise stated below. Post-Fellowship trainees will be supervised by the same overseeing committee as pre-Fellowship trainees in that program, and are subject to the requirements of the College's education policies, including [Flexible Training](#) and [Progression through Training](#). Training programs are assessed with the same criteria as for Advanced Training Programs. The competence level expected is that required of an Advanced Trainee at the same stage of the training program.

Post-Fellowship training may be permitted, at the discretion of the overseeing committee, to occur in expanded settings such as while occupying a consultant position. It is the responsibility of the post-Fellowship trainee to demonstrate that the position, teaching and learning opportunities (including such considerations as clinical case mix) and supervision arrangements are acceptable to the overseeing committee.

Prior learning may be recognised toward program requirements, dependent on the relevance of pre-Fellowship training and subsequent experience. Refer to the [Recognition of Prior Learning Policy](#) for more information about requesting recognition of prior learning.

Accreditation of settings

Core training is usually conducted in training positions that have been accredited by the overseeing committee. The accreditation of training settings supports the provision of quality training environments with an appropriate balance between teaching and learning, and service provision.

Accredited settings for training

Training settings are accredited in recognition of the community's expectation for fully trained and competent physicians, and:

- to ensure that training posts provide high-quality clinical training
- to aid the approval of individual training programs
- to provide information for trainees and supervisors about the training facilities, supervision, and mix of educational opportunities available at each site.

Processes for the accreditation of training settings aim to be transparent, reliable, valid and flexible. Sites are assessed against a set of predetermined criteria. Sites are assessed during a face-to-face visit by two College members. Criteria and application forms can be found on the [College website](#) or obtained from the Education Officer; please refer to the [More information](#) section of this handbook.

List of accredited settings

Each overseeing committee maintains list(s) of sites/settings accredited for training in the particular training program in Australia and New Zealand. These lists can be found on the [College website](#), or obtained from the Education Officer; please refer to the [More information](#) section of this handbook.

Training outside Australia and New Zealand

Trainees intending to undertake training outside Australia or New Zealand should enquire about the suitability of these training positions with their overseeing committee well before applying for prospective approval of the training period. The period of overseas training must comply with the requirements of training outlined in this handbook, including completion of workplace-based assessments and teaching and learning tools, supervision and achievement of learning objectives outlined in the program-specific and Professional Qualities Curricula. Once the committee has confirmed the suitability of the post, trainees should complete the usual application process for prospective approval of training.

There are many relief organisations where supervised clinical experience may be obtained. It is anticipated that such experience enhances trainees' breadth and depth of knowledge, and allows experience that could not be obtained in the Australian or New Zealand teaching hospital environment. All trainees undertaking such posts should consider having an Australian or New Zealand co-supervisor with whom they communicate at least every three months.

Admission to Fellowship

Trainees are eligible to be admitted to Fellowship of the College on the completion of all requirements of training. The College will notify trainees once the overseeing committee has recommended them for admission to Fellowship, to invite them to apply for admission to Fellowship. The admission process involves completion of an application form, and the payment of a fee prior to admission.

New Fellows will receive formal notification from the College that they have been admitted to Fellowship. In addition to the award of Fellowship, individuals who complete training are issued a letter confirming the completion of their training. Fellows who complete another training program subsequent to admission to Fellowship (see [Post-Fellowship training](#)) also receive a letter confirming all of the RACP training programs that they have completed.

Continuing professional development (CPD)

Meeting the requirements of a continuing professional development (CPD) program is a regulatory requirement for all Fellows in Australia, New Zealand and overseas who are in active practice. To be compliant with the RACP [CPD Participation Policy](#), Fellows must participate in a CPD program either of the RACP or an equivalent medical college accredited by the Australian Medical Council (AMC), Medical Council of New Zealand (MCNZ) or equivalent international regulatory authority.

[MyCPD](#) is the CPD program for Fellows of the College. This innovative online program, developed in consultation with the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, is tailored to meet the professional development needs of each participant. The MyCPD program is founded on participants identifying their own personal professional development needs, planning activities to meet those needs, and then reflecting on the activities undertaken – all as part of their ongoing professional development cycle.

More information

Contact the College	
Member Services Contact Centre First point of contact for general enquiries.	<i>Australia</i> Email: racp@racp.edu.au Phone: 1300 MyRACP 1300 69 7227 <i>New Zealand</i> Email: racp@racp.org.nz Phone: 0508 MyRACP 0508 69 7227

Other College contacts	
Education Officer The education officer administers the training program and can respond to training-related enquiries.	Email: ClinicalGenetics@racp.edu.au Phone: +61 2 8247 6218
Training Support The Training Support Unit supports trainees and supervisors of trainees who are experiencing difficulties in their training.	Email: trainingsupport@racp.edu.au
Supervisor Support The Supervisor Learning Support Unit provides and coordinates supervisor skills training.	Email: supervisor@racp.edu.au Phone: +61 2 8076 6300
Member Support Officers Member Support Officers (MSOs) are available to answer queries and conduct on-site workshops in each Australian state/territory and New Zealand.	List of contact details for your local MSO
Trainees' Committee The College Trainees' Committee (CTC) reports to the College Board and represents and advocates on behalf of trainees.	Email: traineescommittee@racp.edu.au
New Zealand Trainees' Committee The New Zealand Trainees' Committee represents and advocates on behalf of trainees.	Email: traineescommittee@racp.org.nz

Other contacts

Specialty societies

[Specialty societies](#) are medical/scientific societies that bring together research and clinical scientists and physicians who are actively involved in a particular area of medical practice, e.g. cardiology, geriatric medicine. The specialty societies are independent organisations that contribute to physician education through their members' involvement in College education committees and activities.

Australasian Association of Clinical Geneticists (AACG)

The [Australasian Association of Clinical Geneticists \(AACG\)](#) is the peak professional body representing Clinical Genetics physicians/paediatricians in Australia and New Zealand.

Resources

Curricula

- [Clinical Genetics Advanced Curriculum](#)
- [Professional Qualities Curriculum](#)

Training requirements

[PREP Program Requirements Handbooks](#)

Training program web page

Information and updates on this training program are available on the [program's web page](#).

Advanced Training Portal

Resources for many of the requirements of this training program can be accessed through the [Advanced Training Portal](#). These include:

- summary of training completed and required
- detailed information on training rotations, including approval and certification decisions
- past examination results
- important dates and training requirements for the Basic Training Program
- online teaching and learning and formative assessment tools
- information sheets, workflows, rating forms and interactive video tutorials for online tools
- additional resources, including links to learning resources
- information about how to use the portal
- frequently asked questions.

Education Policies

A source of advice regarding the guidelines and procedures governing College training programs. The [Education Policy web page](#) contains the current policies. These policies are also listed in [Appendix IV](#) of this handbook.

Appendices

Appendix I: About the RACP

The Royal Australasian College of Physicians

The College is responsible for the training and assessment of doctors who have completed their medical degree and wish to practise as physicians or paediatricians in a specialised area of medicine.

The College is comprised of the following:

Divisions

The College has two Divisions:

- Adult Medicine Division
- Paediatrics & Child Health Division

Division Training Programs result in the qualification of Fellowship of the RACP (FRACP).

Faculties

The College has three Faculties:

- Australasian Faculty of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (AFOEM)
- Australasian Faculty of Public Health Medicine (AFPHM)
- Australasian Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine (AFRM)

Faculty Training Programs result in the qualification of Fellowship of the relevant Faculty, e.g. FAFOEM.

Chapters

The Adult Medicine Division of the College has three Chapters that support groups of practitioners working in the areas listed below. There are three Chapters attached to the Adult Medicine Division:

- Australasian Chapter of Addiction Medicine (AChAM)
- Australasian Chapter of Palliative Medicine (AChPM)
- Australasian Chapter of Sexual Health Medicine (AChSHM)

Chapter Training Programs result in the qualification of Fellowship of the relevant Chapter, e.g. FACHAM.

The Chapter of Community Child Health is attached to the Paediatrics & Child Health Division; however, there is no Chapter training pathway for Community Child Health. Training in this specialty field is directly obtained through the Paediatrics & Child Health Division.

College training programs

The College is an accredited provider of specialist medical education for doctors who wish to practise as physicians or paediatricians. College trainees have completed their medical degree and an internship at a hospital, and undertake further training through the College in order to specialise in a certain area of medicine.

The College offers the following Basic Training Programs under its Divisions:

- Adult Internal Medicine
- Paediatrics & Child Health

The College offers training programs in the following specialty fields:

Division Advanced Training Programs

- Cardiology
- Clinical genetics
- Clinical haematology
- Clinical immunology and allergy
- Clinical pharmacology
- Community child health
- Dermatology (New Zealand only)
- Endocrinology
- Gastroenterology
- General and acute care medicine
- General paediatrics
- Geriatric medicine
- Infectious diseases
- Medical oncology
- Neonatal/perinatal medicine
- Nephrology
- Neurology
- Nuclear medicine
- Palliative medicine
- Respiratory medicine
- Rheumatology
- Sleep medicine

Faculty Training Programs

- Occupational and environmental medicine
- Public health medicine
- Rehabilitation medicine

Chapter Training Programs

- Addiction medicine
- Palliative medicine
- Sexual health medicine

Joint Training Programs

The College also offers Joint Advanced Training between the Divisions and the following colleges and Faculty:

- The Australasian College for Emergency Medicine (ACEM)
 - Paediatric emergency medicine
- The Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (RCPA)
 - Endocrinology and chemical pathology
 - Haematology
 - Immunology/allergy
 - Infectious diseases and microbiology
- The Australasian Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine (AFRM)
 - Paediatric rehabilitation medicine.

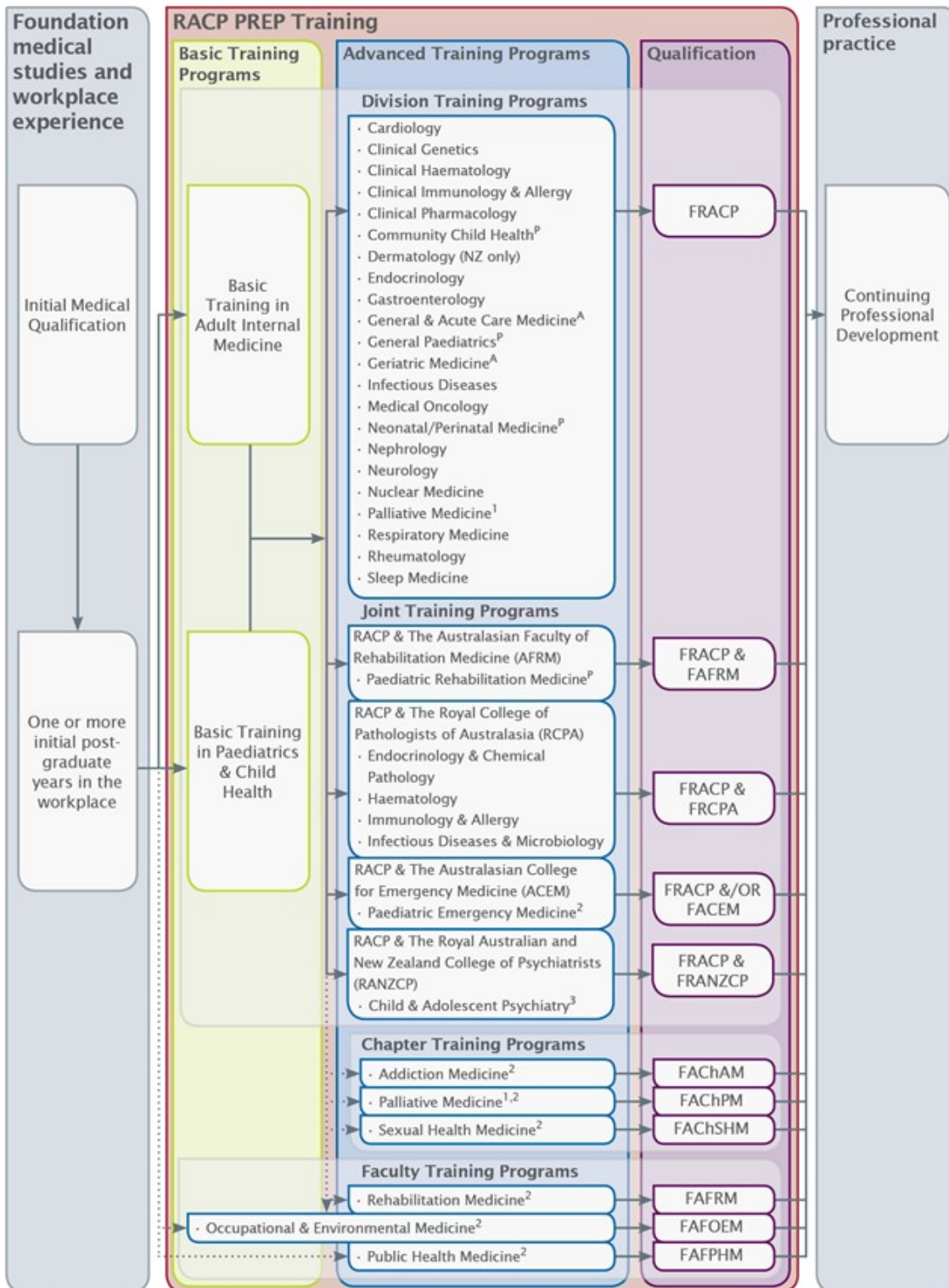
Entry eligibility, duration of training, program requirements and resulting qualifications for these programs can vary. For specific information on any of the College's training programs, please refer to the *Program requirements* section of the relevant [PREP Program Requirements Handbook](#).

[Diagram 1](#) depicts the relationships between the various College training programs that lead to Fellowship and reinforces the link between initial medical training, postgraduate workplace experience, Basic/Advanced/Faculty/Chapter Training and continuing professional development. Diagram 1 only depicts training programs that lead to Fellowship. Please see the [College website](#) for additional RACP training programs.

Advanced Training in Intensive Care Medicine is undertaken under the supervision of the College of Intensive Care Medicine of Australia and New Zealand (CICM). Further information about intensive care training can be found on the [CICM website](#).

Intensive Care Medicine is no longer a training program of the RACP. If trainees wish to obtain the FRACP qualification, completion of a Divisional Advanced Training Program of the RACP is required.

Diagram 1 – RACP Fellowship training pathways



P Trainees must complete Basic Training in Paediatrics & Child Health to enter this program.
A Trainees must complete Basic Training in Adult Internal Medicine to enter this program.
1 Trainees who have entered Advanced Training in Palliative Medicine via an RACP Basic Training Program will be awarded FRACP upon completion and may subsequently be awarded FACHPM. Trainees who have NOT entered Advanced Training in Palliative Medicine via a RACP Basic Training Program will only be awarded FACHPM upon completion.
2 Alternative entry requirements exist for these training programs; please see the corresponding PREP Program Requirements Handbook for further information.
3 The Child & Adolescent Psychiatry Joint Training Program with the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP) is currently under review by the RACP and RANZCP and closed to new entrants at present.
NB1: This diagram only depicts training programs that lead to Fellowship. Please see the RACP website for additional RACP training programs.
NB2: For further information on any of the above listed training programs, please see the corresponding PREP Program Requirements Handbook.
NB3: The Medical Board of Australia has approved a time-limited pathway to FRACP without a field of specialty practice. This pathway is for trainees who commenced Advanced Training in Intensive Care Medicine prior to 1 July 2012, following successful completion of Basic Training in Adult Internal Medicine or Paediatrics & Child Health.

Principles of Physician Readiness for Expert Practice (PREP) Training

The PREP Program is a comprehensive system of education incorporating Basic Training, Advanced Training and continuing professional development (CPD).

Trainees and Fellows are supported throughout the process of lifelong learning by a range of learning strategies and tools.

The key principles of the PREP training philosophy and elements of the PREP framework are described in the [About PREP information sheet](#).

Appendix II: Roles and responsibilities

Responsibilities of trainees

The PREP Program is based on the philosophy that learning should be trainee-centred and physician-led.

Trainees are responsible for:

- seeking for the appropriate supervisor to support completion of formative and summative assessments, teaching and learning tools, and application forms
- submitting forms and documentation by the required deadlines (as detailed in this handbook and the [Progression through Training Policy](#))
- securing appropriate training positions
- researching and accessing new learning resources as necessary
- providing new supervisors with copies of past Supervisor's Reports and any other information relevant to their progress at the commencement of each rotation. If a trainee is unable to provide this information, then the College may do so on their behalf.
- being familiar with and adhering to College policies.

As adult learners, trainees are expected to:

- be familiar with College educational requirements as outlined in program requirement handbooks and curricula
- identify their learning needs, set learning objectives and discuss these objectives with their supervisor
- initiate meetings with their supervisor to regularly discuss and receive feedback on their progress in the training program
- fulfil all learning and assessment requirements of the training program, ensuring these are submitted on time
- attend teaching sessions organised within their training setting
- actively seek feedback and respond appropriately to feedback on their performance and achievements
- actively seek mentorship in their progression towards independent practice as a physician
- reflect on their performance and development as a learner, teacher and professional in order to meet the required standards.

It is a trainee's responsibility to read and sign the [Statement of Basic Training Responsibilities](#) or [Statement of Responsibilities in Advanced Training](#) at the beginning of each term of training.

Trainees are expected to be involved in teaching and mentoring and as such it is expected that they will:

- learn the skills of teaching
- act as a role model and mentor for junior doctors
- impart medical knowledge to junior colleagues and other members of multidisciplinary teams in formal and informal settings.

Receiving feedback

Feedback received by trainees whilst completing formative assessments, or trainee-supervisor meetings, should be used to identify gaps in their knowledge or skills, refine clinical and professional practices, and plan their future learning.

To maximise the benefits of these opportunities, trainees should:

- listen carefully to feedback, and avoid internally refuting or categorically defending themselves against feedback they perceive to be negative

- clarify anything they are unsure about, i.e. test their understanding by rephrasing what they have heard, and asking for confirmation that it is correct
- personally consider and ask for suggestions on how to practically apply their supervisor's feedback
- develop an action plan on how to proceed from there.

College support for trainees

The College is committed to supporting trainees who are experiencing difficulty in their training. If trainees or supervisors are experiencing difficulty, they should contact the Education Officer for their specialty; please refer to the [More information](#) section of this handbook and the [College website](#).

Education

The College will aim to provide a high-quality educational framework and educational tools appropriate for training in clinical and non-clinical settings, and in doing so will seek to:

- facilitate a level of training whereby, upon a trainee's satisfactory completion of the training program, the minimum standards attained comply with the professional and educational requirements of the College as accredited by the Australian Medical Council and Medical Council of New Zealand
- provide training programs, developed in conjunction with Fellows and trainees, relevant to each specialty and suitable for implementation in accredited workplace settings under the guidance of supervisors
- provide access to information about the contents and objectives of each training program
- provide trainees and supervisors with the opportunity to give the College feedback on all aspects of the training program
- inform trainees and supervisors within a reasonable time period of any changes to the curriculum, structure of the training program and any other significant alterations, other than minor timetabling changes, which may affect them
- facilitate internal and external reviews of College training and assessment programs to promote continuous improvement.

Assessment

In relation to assessment programs and activities, the College will seek to:

- promote development and administration of assessments and examinations that are educationally valid
- design assessments and examinations to be consistent with the curriculum of the relevant training program
- provide clear and timely information about assessments and submission dates and the preferred or required format of assessments and submissions.

Supervision

In relation to supervision support, the College will progressively:

- provide a framework to equip supervisors to provide constructive feedback on progress and performance
- promote training for supervisors and facilitate support for their role in supervising trainees
- communicate to supervisors the program requirements and learning objectives of the training programs that they supervise.

Trainees in difficulty

It is likely that most trainees will experience difficulties during their training. Some trainees overcome these difficulties through the support of their supervisors, peers or a mentor. In some cases trainees can benefit from the support offered by the College's [Training Support Unit](#). The College has two support pathways: for trainees with work-based difficulties and for trainees experiencing difficulty passing the RACP examinations. For more information see the [Trainee Support webpage](#).

Supervision

Supervision in PREP training involves a comprehensive level of educationally focused support for trainees. Support from supervisors in PREP training centres around:

- planning and facilitating the trainee's learning path
- facilitating effective teaching and learning opportunities
- providing comprehensive and timely feedback on the trainee's progress and achievement of the curricula's learning objectives.

Advanced Training supervisors

Supervision requirements

It is important that supervisors are physicians with whom trainees have a close working relationship. Among other responsibilities, supervisors are responsible for completing important assessments such as Supervisor's Reports. Supervisors should provide trainees with a copy of these reports, to aid subsequent supervisors in identifying specific training needs. Supervisors may also request the trainee to provide documentation from previous training rotations, for example applications for approval of training, Supervisor's Reports and other documents deemed relevant to trainee progress. In the case that a trainee is unable to provide this documentation, the supervisor may request that the College provide it on the trainee's behalf.

During non-core training, trainees may be working in an environment where there are no consultant physicians. In such circumstances, trainees must nominate an appropriate senior colleague who will be acceptable to the overseeing committee to act as their supervisor.

The mentor role

It is strongly recommended that trainees nominate a mentor. The mentor's role is to complement that of supervisors, by providing advice and support when required and impartial consideration of conflict situations, should they arise. A mentor should be perceived by a trainee as a senior colleague, aware of the local, specialty and College requirements for training, to whom the trainee could turn for professional advice and support at any time during training.

Mentors:

- help trainees define their learning needs and directions for development
- facilitate trainees' learning in the PREP training program
- counsel trainees on appropriate professional career options and alternatives

- assist in the resolution of conflicts within the context of the PREP training program
- refer trainees to other individuals or resources that will assist them during their training.

Interactions between trainees and mentors are in confidence; a mentor would not usually provide information to other parties without the consent of the trainee.

There can be significant benefits for both the mentor and the trainee if the relationship is based on a genuine professional interest in education and adult learning. There needs to be trust between both parties and a clear understanding of the respective roles and responsibilities.

At the time of passing the RACP examinations, it is recommended that trainees discuss with their mentor their plans for Advanced Training over the three years. The DPE or another senior colleague can have a role in helping trainees choose their mentor. In New Zealand, the overseeing committees are able to nominate a senior physician who can act in this role.

College support for supervisors

A [Supervisor Support Strategy](#) has been developed by the College. One of the key components of this strategy is around supervisor training. The Supervisor Professional Development Program delivery model comprises three components:

1. three face-to-face [workshops](#), each three hours in length
2. online learning and resources
3. Fellows as coaches and follow-up by Member Support Officers.

More information is available on the College website.

Appendix III: College policies and processes

Privacy

The College is required to comply with the requirements of the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth) (Australia) and the *Privacy Act 1993* (New Zealand). The College's [Privacy Policy for Personal Information](#) applies to all personal information collected, stored, used and disclosed by the College.

Code of Conduct

The College aims to maintain a high standard of ethical behaviour and expects its Directors, Fellows and other members to treat each other and others with fairness, honesty and respect at all times. The [Code of Conduct](#) sets the expected standards for membership of, and work at, the College.

Working Together policy

The College's Working Together policy aims to ensure that the College provides a safe working and training environment. It describes the practices expected in College activities, training programs, and the various workplaces and training environments where College staff, trainees, Fellows and overseas trained physicians are located. The policy can be obtained from the College's [Human Resources](#) team.

Reconsideration, Review and Appeals Process By-Law

The College has in place a process for the reconsideration, review and appeal of specified College decisions. This process is documented in the [Reconsideration, Review and Appeals Process By-Law](#).

Appendix IV: Glossary of terms

Term	Definition
Assessment	A systematic process for measuring a learner's progress or level of achievement against defined criteria (including curriculum standards). This may be for summative purposes (determining progress) or formative purposes (giving feedback).
Attitudes	The established ways of responding to people and situations that have been learned, based on the beliefs, values and assumptions held by the individual.
Behaviour	One's regular, observable action or reaction under specified circumstances.
Case-based Discussion	This formative assessment involves a comprehensive review of a clinical case (or cases) between a trainee and an assessor. The encounter evaluates the level of professional expertise and judgement exercised in clinical cases by a trainee. The trainee is given feedback from the assessor across a range of areas relating to clinical knowledge, clinical decision making and patient management.
Competence	A holistic understanding of practice and an all-round ability to carry it out under ideal circumstances.
Competency	A characteristic – knowledge, skill, attitude, thought pattern, and the like – that when used singularly or in combination with others, results in successful performance.
Competency-based medical education	An outcomes-based approach to the design, implementation, assessment and evaluation of a medical education program using an organising framework of competencies.
Continuing professional development (CPD)	CPD refers to any learning undertaken outside undergraduate education and postgraduate training which helps to maintain and improve performance. In the case of doctors, it covers the development of knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviours across all areas of medical practice. It includes all learning activities, both formal and informal, by which doctors maintain and develop the quality of their professional work.
Curriculum	A statement of the intended aims and objectives, content, experiences, outcomes and processes of a program or course, including a description of the structure and expected methods of learning, teaching, feedback and supervision. The curriculum should set out what learning outcomes the learner will achieve.
Curriculum standards	(also see performance standards) The learning outcomes/competencies that outline the learning required for the successful completion of a training program and against which a trainee is assessed.
Direct Observation of Procedural Skills	This formative assessment evaluates a trainee's competence in technical or practical procedural skills. Whilst performing a procedure, the competence of the trainee is assessed against a number of standard performance markers. The trainee is given feedback from the assessor across a range of areas relating to the preparation for and the performance of the procedural skill.

Term	Definition
Extended Matching Question	A type of multiple choice question which involves the candidate selecting options from a list, in response to a stem question about a number of different clinical scenarios. Extended matching questions are commonly used to assess problem solving and clinical reasoning. See the Extended Matching Question information sheet for more information and examples.
Formative assessment	Formative assessments focus on assessment for learning through feedback and guidance, and aim to aid the trainee and supervisor through a formal feedback discussion, prompting areas for discussion highlighted by the trainee's performance.
International Medical Graduate (IMG)	An individual who completed their medical degree outside Australia and New Zealand.
Knowledge	The theoretical or practical understanding of a subject.
Learning Needs Analysis	A Learning Needs Analysis involves the trainee creating a learning plan that outlines their learning objectives and goals for their current rotation. At the conclusion of each training rotation, the trainee can evaluate their learning plan to determine whether they have achieved their desired goals, and identify additional areas to focus on in the future.
Learning objectives	Statements of what the trainee is expected to accomplish or acquire as a result of training.
Learning outcomes	These are the competencies to be acquired by the end of a period of training.
Mini-Clinical Evaluation Exercise	This formative assessment evaluates the performance of the trainee in real-life clinical situations. Various skills are assessed during the patient consultation, including medical interviewing, physical examination, professional qualities, counselling skills, clinical judgement, organisation and efficiency. The trainee receives feedback across a range of areas relating to professional qualities and clinical competence from an assessor immediately after the observation.
Outcomes	Areas or aspects of knowledge, skill or behaviour to be acquired through a period of education or training.
Performance	Performance is the application of competence in real life. In the context of physician training, it denotes what a trainee actually does in his/her encounter with patients, their relatives and carers, colleagues, team members, other members of staff, etc.
Performance standards	(also see curriculum standards) The learning outcomes/competencies that outline the learning required for the successful completion of a training program and against which a trainee is assessed.
Professional Qualities Reflection	A Professional Qualities Reflection involves trainees revisiting and reflecting on an event or series of events that have impacted on their professional practice. Through analysis of the event(s), trainees are able to identify and consolidate good practices leading to improved performance. The purpose of the Professional Qualities Reflection is for trainees to articulate and formalise ideas and insights about their professional development through the process of reflection.

Term	Definition
Reflective practice	<p>This is a means by which trainees can develop a greater self-awareness about the nature and impact of their performance. This creates opportunities for professional growth and development.</p> <p>Maximum benefit from reflection is said to occur when the process involves interaction with others (for example, an educational supervisor) and when the trainees value their own personal and intellectual growth. Adequate time for reflective thinking and writing aids the process.</p>
Skill	<p>The ability to perform a task to at least a competent level. A skill can be gained through regular practice (experience) combined with reflective practice (self-assessment/insight) and constructive feedback.</p>
Specialty	<p>Specialties are areas of medicine that require particular sets of knowledge, skills and experience, e.g. cardiology is a specialty focusing on the medical care of patients with cardiovascular conditions.</p>
Summative assessment	<p>Summative assessments focus on judgements about trainee progression resulting in pass or fail decisions of a trainee's performance.</p>
Training	<p>This is the ongoing workplace-based process by which experience is obtained, constructive feedback provided and learning outcomes achieved.</p>
Type-A Multiple Choice Question	<p>A type of examination question which involves the candidate selecting the single best alternative from five options.</p>
Workplace-based assessment	<p>Workplace-based assessment refers to the assessment of competence based on what a learner actually does in the workplace. The main aim of workplace-based assessment is to aid learning (formative assessment) by providing learners with constructive feedback.</p>

The College trains, educates and advocates on behalf of more than 14,500 physicians – often referred to as medical specialists – and 6,000 trainees, across Australia and New Zealand. The College represents more than 32 medical specialties including general medicine, paediatrics and child health, cardiology, respiratory medicine, neurology, oncology and public health medicine, occupational and environmental medicine, palliative medicine, sexual health medicine, rehabilitation medicine, geriatric medicine and addiction medicine. Beyond the drive for medical excellence, the RACP is committed to developing health and social policies which bring vital improvements to the wellbeing of patients.

www.racp.edu.au
www.racp.org.nz

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