



The Graduate Profile

A graduate of the New Zealand College of Public Health Medicine training programme is entitled to describe themselves as a Public Health Medicine Specialist. Public health medicine is concerned with the health and care of population and population groups. It involves the assessment of population health and health care needs, the development of policy and strategy, the promotion of health, the control and prevention of disease, and the organisation of health and health related services.

A graduate of the training programme is expected to:

Have the knowledge and skills required for practice as Public Health Medicine Specialist in New Zealand, including being able to

- understand public health concepts and issues
- collect data and use information/data relevant to public health
- communicate effectively
- plan and deliver analyses of public health issues
- respond appropriately to public health issues including advising, taking action and evaluating outcomes
- build relationships with communities and organisations
- manage self and others
- lead and influence effectively

Behave professionally and demonstrate the values of the College through

- Behaving honestly, ethically, and in a culturally safe manner
- Advocating to improve public health and reduce public health inequities in Aotearoa New Zealand
- Working in partnership with Māori
- Undertaking training and continuing professional development to ensure the safety and effectiveness of their practice
- Supporting colleagues and multidisciplinary teams personally and professionally
- Seeking to use evidence as the basis of their practice
- Seeking sustainable processes and outcomes
- Working with vulnerable communities
- Recognition of New Zealand's status as a Pacific Nation

Be able to practice in a variety of public health work settings

Common roles undertaken by Public Health Medicine Specialists include

- ***Medical Officer of Health:*** The Medical Officer of Health works as part of a team alongside other public health professionals to protect and promote the health of that community. This role includes regulatory functions and is based in a Public Health Unit within a District Health Board.
- ***Other Public Health Unit roles:*** these roles may include working in areas such as information and analysis, 'health in all policies' and health promotion.
- ***Strategy, Funding and Planning:*** these roles are based within District Health Boards and are focussed on needs assessment, population health input to DHB plans and processes, prioritisation and allocative decision making.

- *Advisory:* Public Health Medicine Specialists work in a variety of advisory roles, including providing advice on regulatory and health policies, service development and planning of programmes.
- *Leadership and Management:* These are roles within the health sector that focus on population-based services and personal health treatment services. Public Health Medicine Specialists lead Ministry of Health programmes, provide advice to communities on ways to improve health outcomes, protect populations from environmental and biological hazards, and assess populations' needs for health services.
- *Academic Public Health:* These research and teaching roles require a high level of academic expertise, and training for them usually includes a doctorate.