

2024 – Basic Physician Training (BPT/Medical) Information Guide

Central NorthWest Basic Physician Training Consortium

The Central North West Consortium comprises Austin Health, Bendigo Health, Echuca Regional Health, Northern Health, and Wimmera Health Care Group.

The Central North West Consortium offers comprehensive support across all years of the PREP program with all rotations accredited by the RACP. We have a long tradition of providing excellent physician training to trainees within this consortium. A training program to support trainees preparing for the written and clinical RACP examinations has been implemented across all sites within the consortium. In-house written exam lectures are held September to January each year finishing with a mock 170 question written exam.

Further information can be obtained at www.centralnorthwest.org.au

As all the hospitals in the consortium have grown significantly, there are now over 150 trainees employed over the three training years which has made rostering and local trainee support increasingly difficult. From 2020, the consortium commenced the process to separate into two recruiting bodies for recruitment into the consortium BPT program. Appointments are now aligned to Austin Health or Northern Health for the BPT/Medical stream across all three levels (BPT1-BPT3), so applicants need to apply to each Health Service independently. Rotational partnerships within the Consortium see Austin Health paired with Bendigo Health; and Northern Health with Echuca Regional Health and Wimmera Health Care Group.

The educational program continues unchanged across the health services; all of the preparation for the written and clinical exams continue to be shared across sites with trainees having access to tutorials and other educational activities at all sites.

Please note that these positions will be processed through the Postgraduate Medical Council Victoria (PMCV) Allocation and Placement Service (APS).

Summary of positions

Currently there are over 75 positions available at Austin Health and Bendigo Health in the Basic Physician Training (BPT) program. Trainees will be offered a wide selection of general and speciality rotations within a major teaching hospital, a smaller metro hospital (Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital campus), and a large regional hospital (Bendigo Health) across the three BPT years.

Currently, two of these roles form the Austin-Bendigo Regional BPT Pathway, with even numbers of Austin and Bendigo rotations across the three-year program (18 months at each health service, with 12 months of rotations at Austin Health prior to the clinical exam). This program will offer trainees exposure to a variety of speciality and general/acute medicine rotations, and a unique insight into working in a regional/rural location.

Three-year appointments will be offered as an option to HMO2/BPT1 candidates successfully matched to Austin/Bendigo Health in 2024 (note, candidates will have the option to accept either three, two- or one-year contracts). Rosters are created to optimise the training experience and speciality time over the three years of basic physician training.

For trainees entering at BPT2 level, two-year appointments may be offered and BPT3s will be limited to one-year appointments.

Please note that acceptance into a training program is not a pre-requisite for successful application to this stream, although the expectation is that those who are successfully appointed to this stream will enrol with the Royal Australasian College of Physicians for BPT1 recognition. Three-year contracts will only be available to those registering with RACP.

Available Rotations

| BPT1/HMO2 Medical Year | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cardiology (AH & BH) • Gastroenterology/Liver Transplant Unit (AH) • Geriatric Medicine (AH & BH) • Infectious Diseases (BH) • Nephrology (AH & BH) • Oncology (AH & BH) • Respiratory Medicine (AH) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endocrinology/Rheumatology (AH) • General Medicine incl. Nights (AH & BH) • Haematology (AH) • Intensive Care (AH) • Neurology (AH) • Palliative Care (AH) • Specialty Medicine Cover (AH) |
| BPT2 & BPT3 Years | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Haematology (AH) • Gastroenterology (AH) • General/Acute Medicine (AH & BH) • Geriatric Medicine (AH & BH) • Infectious Diseases (AH & BH) • Liver Transplant (AH) • Neurology & Stroke Medicine (AH) • Night Duty/Relief (AH & BH) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nuclear Medicine (AH) • Oncology (AH & BH) • Palliative Care (Cover) (AH) • Perioperative Medicine (AH & BH) • Radiation Oncology (AH) • Respiratory Medicine (AH & BH) • Spinal / Acute Rehabilitation Medicine (AH) |

Austin-Bendigo Regional BPT Pathway

For candidates successful in securing a position in the Austin-Bendigo Regional BPT Pathway, rotations will be set across the three years of training. Candidates will be given opportunities to experience Geriatric Medicine, ID/HITH, and/or Oncology rotations as a Medical Registrar in BPT2 and BPT3 years. Rosters within this stream will include even splits between speciality, general medicine, and non-core/relief. Indicative rosters are shown below; please note applicants for this stream must be willing to commit to a three-year contract.

Trainee One:

| BPT1 | | | | BPT2 | | | | BPT3 | | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Bendigo Cardiology HMO | Austin Gen Med | Austin HMO ND | Bendigo Renal HMO | Bendigo Reg ND | Bendigo Oncology Reg | Austin Reg Relief | Austin Acute Reg | Austin Reg ND | Austin Acute Reg | Bendigo Gen Med Reg | Bendigo ID/HITH Reg |

Trainee Two:

| BPT1 | | | | BPT2 | | | | BPT3 | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Bendigo Renal HMO | Austin Gen Med | Bendigo Cardiology HMO | Austin HMO ND | Bendigo Geriatric Reg | Bendigo Reg ND | Austin Acute Reg | Austin HMO Relief | Austin Acute Reg | Austin Reg ND | Bendigo Oncology Reg | Bendigo Acute Reg |

BPT – Applications and Important Information

BPT positions at Austin Health are appointed to via the Allocation and Placement Service (APS) conducted by the Postgraduate Medical Council of Victoria (PMCV). As such, applications must be made to **both** the PMCV and Austin Health.

Register with PMCV for Computer Match

In order to be considered for an Austin BPT position, candidates must first meet the eligibility criteria for the HMO Match and register with the PMCV. For information on the Match process and to register, refer to the PMCV website at <https://www.pmcv.com.au/medical.workforce/allocation-and-placement-service/>

Please note this step is not required for consideration for the Austin-Bendigo Regional BPT Pathway.

Applications to Austin Health

All applications must be submitted via our online recruitment system. Please follow the instructions and complete all the steps. You must also attach a cover letter and a Curriculum Vitae (CV) in order to be considered for short listing.

Applications for the general BPT program can be submitted via Austin Careers Website. Applications can be addressed to Ms Victora Berardo, MWU Coordinator - Medical Stream, Austin Health.

For candidates who would like to apply for the Austin-Bendigo Regional BPT Pathway, please submit applications via the Austin Careers website. Please address your cover letters to Hannah Cole, MWU Manager, Bendigo Health.

References

Please refer to the PMCV Computer Match website for information about the process for references for BPT Consortium positions. For positions within the rural pathway, references will be requested following interviews.

Interviews

Applicants will be contacted for interview following the short-listing process. Contact will be made via email, and instructions on how to proceed with an interview time will be included in the email.

Selection

The selection process (which consists of ranking candidates through the PMCV Match) is based on merit and consists of the combined assessment of application documents, referee reports and interviews. Candidates applying for the Austin-Bendigo Regional BPT Pathway will also be assessed on their interest in the program and connection to the Bendigo region.

Appointments

Austin BPT appointments are made based on the PMCV Computer Matching results. Applicants successfully matched to Austin Health will be contacted directly via email to confirm appointment.

Appointments to the Regional BPT Pathway will be outside of the PMCV Computer Match; roles within this stream will be offered in mid-August. Successful candidates will be given 2 days to accept in order to allow time for withdraw from the Computer Match prior to the closing date.

Annual Rotation/Roster Allocations

Once matched/offered, appointees will get an opportunity to provide rotation preferences (by ranking available rotations within the relevant training year level), leave requests and other information before annual allocations are prepared.

All attempts will be made to accommodate special requests within the rosters i.e. annual leave for major personal events, rotation allocation based on training and career goals etc., however, please be aware not all requests can be accommodated and/or granted.

Please note that:

- Regional BPT Pathway Trainees will be assigned a set roster.
- For BPT2s, in the first 6 months of the year you will be rostered to a term at Bendigo Health. This is to enable BPT3 trainees who are sitting the written exam and clinical exam to be rostered to Austin during this exam period, and vice versa,
- For BPT3s, in the latter 6 months of the year you will be rostered to a term at Bendigo. This is to enable BPT2s who are sitting the written exam and clinical exam to be rostered to Austin during this 6-month period prior to their exam.