GP Synergy
Procedural skills training opportunities
Procedural skills training programs

There are two programs available for doctors seeking to acquire advanced procedural skills.

Rural general practice is a diverse and interesting career offering doctors a wide range of clinical opportunities. In addition to providing community based primary healthcare, rural GPs can also acquire advanced procedural skills in anaesthesia, obstetrics and gynaecology, emergency medicine, mental health and surgery.

In NSW, doctors can acquire these skills through either of two programs:
- the NSW Rural GP Procedural Training (GPPT) Program,
- the NSW Rural Generalist (RG) Program.

NSW Rural GP Procedural Training (GPPT) program

In the Rural GP Procedural Training (GPPT) program, doctors can undertake advanced skills training in obstetrics and gynaecology, anaesthesia, surgery, emergency medicine and mental health, for periods of 6 or 12 months (full-time equivalent) depending on the discipline.

Applications are open to GP registrars in the AGPT program, as well as already fellowed or specialty registered GPs.

In the GPPT program, GP registrars may be able to undertake their advanced skills training in their chosen discipline any time after their mandatory hospital training.

The Rural Generalist (RG) program

In the Rural Generalist (RG) program, doctors can develop advanced skills in the disciplines of obstetrics and gynaecology (DRAANZCOG Advanced) and anaesthesia. In this program all placements are 12 months (full-time equivalent).

To be eligible to apply doctors must be in the AGPT program or in the process of applying. Offers made for RG program are subject to an applicant’s successful acceptance onto the AGPT program.

Doctors in the RG program may be able to undertake their advanced skills training at the start of the AGPT program prior to undertaking community based GP term training.

Procedural placements available with GP Synergy

GP Synergy offers a range of procedural training placements under both programs in our New England/Northwest NSW training region. This includes:

- Anaesthesia
  - RG and GPPT program, 12 months, Tamworth Hospital
  - GPPT program, 12 months, Armidale Hospital

- Obstetrics and Gynaecology
  - DRAANZCOG Advanced
  - RG program, 12 months, Tamworth Hospital
  - GPPT program, 12 months, Tamworth Hospital

- Obstetrics
  - DRAANZCOG
  - GPPT program, 6 months, Tamworth Hospital

- Emergency Medicine
  - ACEM Emergency Medicine Certificate optional
  - GPPT program, 6 or 12 months, Tamworth Hospital

- Mental Health
  - GPPT program, 6 or 12 months, Tamworth Hospital

For more information about these placements please contact GP Synergy Special Education Programs Manager, Felicity Gemmell-Smith on 02 6752 7354 or felicitygs@gpsynergy.com.au

Find out more about our training region visit our website: www.gpsynergy.com.au

Cover: Dr Callum Feally, GP Synergy registrar during his procedural skill training post at Armidale Hospital in anaesthesia.

GP Synergy registrar, Dr Karen Collins during her O&G advanced rural skills placement in Tamworth.
GP Procedural and Rural Generalist training

Fellowship pathways
In the AGPT program, there are two fellowship endpoints. GP registrars undertaking procedural skills training can pursue either or both fellowship options.

Fellowship of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (FRACGP)
The RACGP fellowship pathway is generally three years in duration, with an optional fourth year. This includes:
- 12 months hospital training (which may be the PGY2 year)
- 18 months in community general practice placements
- 6 months in a special interest term called extended skills (see note below)
- Optional 12 months advanced rural skills year (FARGP)

Registrars may be able to apply for RPL for up to 12 months of the first hospital based year.

In the RACGP fellowship pathway, registrars undertaking procedural skill training in either the RG or PT program may be able to undertake their placement as part of their extended skills training. Alternatively, registrars can undertake a 12 month advanced rural skills training placement towards the additional award – Fellowship of Advanced Rural General Practice (FARGP).

Fellowship of the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (FACRRM)
The ACRPM fellowship pathway is generally four years in duration. This includes:
- 12 months hospital training (which may be the PGY2 year)
- 24 months in primary rural and remote training
- 12 months in an advanced rural skills placement

Registrars may be able to apply for Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) for some of this time.

Placement timing during training
Registrars in the RG program generally undertake their procedural skills training placement towards the start of their GP training. Registrars in the GPPT program may be able to undertake their procedural placement any time after their mandatory hospital training.

How to apply
Applications to the RG and GPPT programs are to be made through the NSW Health job network.

Applications for 2015 open around July/August, with any occasional vacancies advertised earlier in year.

For more information on how to apply contact GP Synergy Special Education Programs Officer, Felicity Gemmell-Smith on felicitygs@gpsynergy.com.au or 02 6752 7354

IMPORTANT: Rural Generalist Program and AGPT applications
To be eligible to apply for a RG training position, doctors must be part of the AGPT program or in the process of applying. Fellowed GPs are unable to apply for this program.

Applications to the 2015 AGPT program open on 14 April and close on 9 May 2014.

Due to the timing of application periods, applications will be accepted by prevocational doctors who are in the process of applying to the 2015 AGPT program, however any offers will be dependent on successful acceptance into the AGPT program.

For more information on applying to AGPT visit the AGPT website – www.agpt.com.au and contact GP Synergy on applicants@gpsynergy.com.au

GP registrars undertaking advanced rural skills can pursue either or both fellowship endpoints.

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* Others made to prevocational doctors are subject to the applicant’s successful acceptance onto the AGPT program.

** Subject to availability at time of application

“Would definitely recommend the anaesthetics advanced rural skills post in Armidale. The local support has been fantastic – the supervisors and staff have been great in recognising that I am there as a learner. Armidale is a fantastic town, with a University and good secondary schools that attract educated and self-directed people. There is an active orchestra, regular plays and good restaurants, which make it a generally good place to live.”

GP registrar
Dr Sasha Saharov
(Reflecting on his anaesthetics advanced rural skills post at Armidale Hospital)

For more information on applying to AGPT visit the AGPT website – www.agpt.com.au and contact GP Synergy on applicants@gpsynergy.com.au

Comprehensive procedural training opportunities
Doctors are then able to apply for the program through the NSW Health jobs website. Applications to the RG and GPPT programs are to be made through the NSW Health job network.

Doctors seeking to apply to the AGPT program are required to be part of, or in the process of applying to, the AGPT program. Doctors are then able to apply for the program through the NSW Health jobs website.

Disciplines available** Anaesthesia, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Emergency medicine, Mental Health, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Surgery (not currently available in GP Synergy’s region).

Early stage of training when placement undertaken
Prior to undertaking GP training terms
If a GP registrar, at any time during training after mandatory hospital year in discussion with RTP.
If a fellowed or practising GP, at any time.

For AGPT applicants*  AGPT applicants*
AGPT registrars  AGPT registrars
Fellowed or specialty registered GPs  Fellowed or specialty registered GPs

** Subject to availability at time of application
I am a prevocational doctor who is not yet on the AGPT program. Can I still apply for the 2015 Rural Generalist or GP Procedural Placement Programs?

Yes. However if you are made an offer under one of these programs, to be eligible to accept this offer you are required to be accepted onto the AGPT program. This means you will need to apply for the 2015 AGPT program (between 14 April and 9 May 2014). As you will not know if you have been offered a place until mid-August and interviews for the procedural programs may take place during this time, any offer for the procedural program will be conditional upon your successful entry to the 2015 AGPT program.

Who manages the procedural training programs?

Both procedural training programs are managed by GP Synergy in our region with funding from the Health Education & Training Institute (HETI) Rural Directorate. As the advanced rural skills placement is a component of your Australian General Practice Training, all training is under the auspice of your chosen RTP (such as GP Synergy).

What supervision and support is available during training?

During advanced skills placements, doctors in the Rural Generalist and Procedural Training programs are supervised by qualified specialist supervisors, a dedicated GP Synergy portfolio manager, and medical educators. In addition, registrars are matched to a procedural GP mentor to provide assistance and support during advanced rural skills placements. During community-based terms, registrars receive direct supervision and teaching by experienced accredited general practitioners within their practice. Your RTP will also provide ongoing support and education throughout your training.

I am a current AGPT registrar. Can I apply to either program?

Yes – please contact GP Synergy Special Education Programs Manager, Felicity Gemmell-Smith on 02 6752 7354 or felicitygs@gpsynergy.com.au.
Would you like to know more about GP Synergy or GP training?

Visit our website: www.gpsynergy.com.au

Find out more about training with GP Synergy, explore our training regions, review the profiles of our training practices, supervisors, staff, and more.

Contact us: 02 9818 4433

We are happy to answer your queries about GP Synergy or GP training anytime. Call us on (02) 9818 4433 or send us an email: applicant@gpsynergy.com.au