



## OVERVIEW OF THE ROLE

As an Antarctic Medical Practitioner (AMP) you will provide complete generalist medical, surgical and emergency dental care for a remote community at an Australian Antarctic or sub-Antarctic station. AMPs also provide care during voyages and in Antarctic and sub-Antarctic field environments.

You will generally be the sole medical practitioner at the station. The AMP provides total health care services for 15 to 25 expeditioners over winter. This can increase to 120 during summer (October to March). There may be up to 130 passengers and crew on expedition voyages. AMPs are generally winter jobs (total employment 15–18 months, with time in Antarctica 10–15 months). Occasional shorter term appointments may be available as ship, summer station and field doctors, however wintering applicants are preferred.

## WHAT YOU WILL DO ON THE JOB

As an AMP you will be required to undertake some or all of the following:

- Provide complete medical, surgical, and dental care, including public health, occupational medicine, aviation and maritime medicine, nutrition, preparation of first-aids kits, upkeep and stocktaking of equipment and pharmaceuticals.
- Provide medical support across the breadth of primary, secondary and occasionally tertiary level care with 24/7 telemedicine support.
- Provide supplementary instruction and supervision to fellow expeditioners on matters of health, medical procedures and first-aid.
- Conduct medical research on human interaction and performance within the Antarctic extreme environment.
- Maintain strong communications with your supporting professional and clinical supervisors in the Polar Medicine Unit and prepare monthly and annual reports.

As a proactive and positive member of the community you will:

- Maintain a personal and practical commitment to AAD policies and standard operating procedures (including work, health and safety and environmental policies). Training and guidance in regard to all responsibilities relevant to your position will be provided.
- Perform duties to support the community life of the expedition, such as general kitchen duties, garbage clearance, general cleaning duties, and assisting other expedition members with official programs.
- Work in areas outside of your primary role, for example, providing assistance to other areas or science projects, or participating in general labouring tasks such as clearing snow or handling cargo.

The [General Information for Applicants](#) document contains critical information about living and working in Antarctica, and be read in conjunction with this job description prior to applying.

# Antarctic Medical Practitioner - Technical Criteria

These technical criteria are used to assess your application for AMP.

Typical successful applicants include rural and remote general practitioners or registrars, and some specialists with a background broad scope of practice or relevant upskilling (e.g. emergency physicians, anaesthetists, surgeons, physicians).

## 1. Qualifications and Licences

You will be required to provide copies with your application.

- Unrestricted general or relevant specialist registration as a medical practitioner with the Medical Board of Australia <http://www.medicalboard.gov.au/>
- Basic Medical qualification
- A current, unrestricted "C" class (manual) Australian driver's licence.
- Provide details of any suspensions, restrictions or other actions from relevant registering and professional bodies in Australia or in any other country
- Certificate of Good Standing (where requested)

## 2. Experience

AMPs must have practical skills or be able to respond, where appropriate, in the following fields. Some examples of practical procedures which have been performed by AMPs, or may be required, are indicated (italicised within brackets). A generalist non-specialist level of experience is sought.

### 1. General Medicine

- General Medicine (*lumbar puncture, pleural tap*)
- Dermatology
- Ophthalmology (*enucleation of eye*)
- Ear, Nose and Throat
- Psychiatry and Mental Health Counselling

### 2. Emergency Management

- Urology & STI (*catheters, suprapubic cystotomy*)
- Thoracic (*underwater seal drains*)
- Burns (*split skin graft*)

### 3. Anaesthetics\* and Intensive Care

- General Anaesthesia
- Local and Regional Anaesthesia (*spinal, Bier's Block*)



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#### 4. Surgery\*

- Surgery – Appendicectomy (*craniotomy, laparotomy with exploration of the abdomen, oversewing perforated peptic ulcer, splenectomy, management of other abdominal trauma, colostomy, tracheostomy, oesophagoscopy, bronchoscopy, sigmoidoscopy*)
- Plastic Surgery (*hand injuries, amputations, management of tendon and nerve injuries*)

#### 5. Orthopaedics

- Orthopaedics (*conservative management of all types of fractures, including skeletal traction, management of cervical and thoraco-lumbar spinal injuries, treatment of dislocations of minor and major joints, and management of lower back problems*)

#### 6. Obstetrics and Gynaecology

- Obstetrics and Gynaecology (*Dilatation and Curettage, Ectopic Pregnancy*)

#### 7. Occupational, Industrial and Environmental Medicine and Public Health\*

- Diving Medicine\*
- Aviation and Retrieval Medicine\*
- Altitude Medicine\*

#### 8. Dentistry\* (*extractions, conservative treatment*)

#### 9. Laboratory\*, Radiology & Radiography\* and Pathology\*

- Laboratory Methods (*urine, blood, microbiology, biochemistry, cross matching*)
- Radiology and radiography (*digital processing, ultrasound*)
- Pathology (*limited post mortem*)

#### 10. Physiotherapy\*, Rehabilitation and Sports Medicine

#### 11. Medical Services\*

- Nursing
- Sterilisation of equipment
- Drug and Equipment Inventory
- Nutrition, Dietetics
- First Aid Instruction

\*Some training may be provided in these areas before departure.



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# Personal Qualities Criteria

The Australian Antarctic Division assesses individual personal qualities in terms of the attributes required to successfully live and work in an isolated Antarctic or subantarctic community. Successful candidates will meet the personal qualities criteria detailed below. Personal qualities are assessed at a later stage in the assessment process.

## 1. Demonstrate a strong work ethic

Evidenced by a proven history of efficient, effective, responsive and productive work performance.

Applicants for supervisory positions will be expected to demonstrate supervisory capabilities, including a good knowledge of workplace diversity, workplace relations, work, health and safety and environmental management practices and principles.

## 2. Demonstrate that they can make a positive contribution to community and team

Evidenced by:

- demonstrating the capacity to cope with physical and emotional isolation and the resilience to overcome hardship;
- demonstrating the capacity to work productively, contribute to the success of small isolated work groups and the overall community including recognising the effect their behaviour has on others;
- demonstrating a capacity to address and resolve issues of conflict;
- demonstrating the capacity to exercise sound judgement;
- demonstrating flexibility, tolerance and acceptance of changing circumstances;
- demonstrating qualities of robustness, motivation and confidence whilst displaying sensitivity, situational awareness and support and respect to fellow workers;
- demonstrating good social skills and taking pride in their appearance and maintaining socially accepted standards of hygiene;
- responsible use of alcohol; and
- not exhibiting behaviour that could endanger others' safety or be seen as being abusive, threatening or offensive to others.

## 3. Demonstrate that they can respond to authority and are compliant with the law, legislative requirements and AAD policies and procedures

Evidenced by:

- a history of complying with authority and supporting lawful instructions;
- demonstrating a commitment to and compliance with appropriate environmental management policies and practices;
- demonstrating a knowledge and history of compliance with work health and safety practices and principles; and
- recognition of harassment and discrimination issues and demonstrated compliance with associated legislative requirements.

## 4. Demonstrate a commitment to AAP specific requirements

Evidenced by:

- demonstrating commitment to supporting the Australian Antarctic Science Program;
- demonstrating willingness to participate in "common duties" and activities in support of the community generally; and

- demonstrating commitment to fully participate in all required training and associated activities.

## Other Criteria

If you progress through the technical criteria and personal qualities stage of the process, the next stage will require you to undergo medical, psychological and character screening. Meeting and maintaining suitability in relation to these requirements is mandatory.

### Medical

The AAD's Polar Medicine Unit will determine your medical fitness for duty in Antarctica or the subantarctic following tests conducted on our behalf by a nominated medical practitioner.

As this role will require you to be involved in a Safety Sensitive Aviation Activities, a condition of employment is that you will be required to undertake drug and alcohol screening of urine and/or saliva samples.

Candidates considered for a role at Macquarie Island may be required to complete a fitness assessment.

### Psychological

You may be required to undertake an adaptability assessment.

### Character

You will be subject to a police records check.

### Security

Successful applicants may be required to undertake a Baseline security clearance.

### Training

You must undertake all training requirements as outlined by the AAD.



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