



NT Retrieval Medical Officer/ Registrar Positions

CareFlight is a world renowned Australian not-for-profit aero-medical organisation dedicated to providing the community with rapid response critical care. We operate bases in four states, have a high clinical profile and a significant international research reputation. Our doctors and nurses currently care for over 5,000 patients per annum. Having recently won an exciting new ten year contract to service the Top End, CareFlight is looking for doctors to work in this diverse environment. CareFlight currently holds training accreditation with ACEM, ANZCA and CICM.

The Retrieval Service

CareFlight is contracted to provide Aero Medical Services across the Top End of Australia. Working out of bases in Darwin, Gove and Katherine, CareFlight operates four dedicated Beechcraft KingAir B200 fixed wing aircraft and a dedicated BK-117 helicopter.

The aircraft are primarily used to conduct pre-hospital and inter-facility transfers. The helicopter, which is Night Vision Goggle (NVG) equipped and has a rescue hoist, also participates in search and rescue operations.

This is a busy service – annual workload approximates 2000 flights with 2800 hours of flying time, and covers 2.37 million kilometres. CareFlight is responsible for all fixed and rotary wing assets, pilots, nursing staff and coordination and logistical services. The service is staffed by 18 flight nurses across the three bases.

Retrieval MO's, working out of Darwin, participate in about 800 missions per year. Working with highly qualified registered nurses, they maintain the highest critical care capability and are preferentially dispatched to the higher acuity missions. Consultant support is provided by CareFlight: dedicated critical care specialists with aeromedical experience, based in Darwin, provide 24 hour cover.

Flights are dispatched to all northern areas of the Northern Territory, with the majority of referrals originating from remote Aboriginal communities, cattle stations and district hospitals.



Caseload

(Data for Medical Officer escorted missions for the 12 months to June 2010)

Total Cases: 734

Turboprop fixed wing 89%
Helicopter 11%

Level of Care at Referring Centre

Community clinic 70%
District hospital 25%
Primary response 5%

Level of Retrieval Care

Observation 48%
Intervention required 43%
Critical 5%
Cancelled 4%

Workload

Indigenous clients 77%
Paediatrics 15%

Primary Diagnosis Category:

- Medical 49%
- Trauma 18%
- Psych 10%
- Obs/Gyn 8%
- Surgical 4%
- Shock 4%
- Critical Event 4%
- General 3%
- Newborn 1%

Procedures Performed:

- Fluid resuscitation 72
- Intubation 30
- Arterial line insertion 29
- Ventilation 28
- Inotropes 22
- Bipap/CPAP 12
- Blood transfusion 12
- CVL insertion 11
- CPR 1
- Intercostal catheter 1



Training

Training will be conducted by CareFlight's renowned and highly experienced education faculty, with input from both local and interstate experts. We understand that working in this environment seems daunting and we tailor our training to overcome this issue.

Initial Training Includes:

- five days of dedicated medical training covering pre-hospital and inter-hospital medicine
- cultural awareness training
- extensive aviation familiarisation and safety training including Helicopter Underwater Escape Training and Aviation Escape and Survival Training

Ongoing Training:

Fortnightly protected, paid teaching time

- covers more advanced elements of retrieval medicine
- has a significant practical +/- simulation component

Clinical Supervision and Specialty Support

Retrieval MO's will receive extensive clinical and operational supervision by the retrieval consultants. Paediatric registrars from Royal Darwin Hospital may be utilised to assist with neonatal cases. A midwife is always available within the retrieval system for assistance in obstetric cases.



Quality Assurance

Each retrieval will be debriefed with a retrieval consultant. Complex missions may be debriefed more formally.

Multidisciplinary retrieval meetings are a great opportunity to explore issues of tasking and operational difficulties.

CareFlight have robust computer based incident reporting and management systems so clinical, operational and aviation issues may be followed up and resolved.

Required Qualifications and Experience

Five years of post-graduate medical experience is required, including experience in at least one of the critical care specialties of Emergency Medicine, Anaesthesia or Intensive Care. Advanced airway management skills are an absolute requirement. Retrieval medical officers must be capable of functioning independently in challenging environments, although extensive clinical supervision is provided.



Roster

The service operates 24 hours per day, likely 2*12 hour duty shifts and 1*24 hour standby shift per day, with a rolling roster.

Remuneration

Salary and conditions are commensurate with relevant awards.

Accommodation/Cars

It is anticipated that quality accommodation and cars will be made available for retrieval MOs to utilise, at normal market rates.



Royal Darwin Hospital

RDH is a 343 bed university teaching / tertiary hospital for the northern half of the Northern Territory and the Kimberley region in WA.

RDH has a catchment population of some 140,000 people and directly serves an area of 127,000 km², but the total area served is about 500,000 km². This area includes a rural population of about 47000 people, 60% of who are Aboriginal and generally considered very remote demographically.

The top end of the NT has two remote district hospitals that refer to RDH – Katherine Hospital 300km to the south and Gove Hospital in East Arnhemland.

RDH has specialist services in all disciplines, and specialists in many sub-disciplines. ICU has 10 ventilated beds, supported by an eight bed HDU. The neonatal unit has a Level 3 ICU, with six ventilated beds, eight high dependency beds and 13 general beds. A busy renal dialysis unit operates off site and on site. The emergency department sees 60,000 patients per year and has an admission rate of 28%. 35% of these are Indigenous and 24% paediatric. The operating theatres, with a significant paediatric and obstetric caseload, perform approximately 11,000 cases per annum, across every discipline except cardiac surgery and elective neurosurgery. RDH refers to other hospitals about 3,000km away, for neurosurgical procedures, cardiac surgery and some other sub-specialist procedures.

RDH is supported by, and co-operates with the National Critical Care and Trauma Response Centre for mass casualty operations in the Top End, Northern Australia, and South East Asia. The NCCTRC has considerable experience in disasters and mass casualty events, including the Bali bombings and the Ashmore Reef SIEV 36 boat explosion.



The case mix is unique: with a young population, it includes tropical, cross cultural and indigenous medicine, as well as the highest per capita rates in Australia of rheumatic fever, TB and blunt and penetrating trauma.

RDH is affiliated with the Northern Territory Clinical School, as a section of Flinders University of South Australia. Undergraduate students are permanently based at RDH. Accredited post-graduate training positions exist in most specialties.

Positions involving six months with the retrieval service and further time spent in Royal Darwin Hospital, are available to the right trainees.

To apply for a position, see Career Opportunities on www.careflight.org.