



JOB DESCRIPTION

Position: Medical Officer, Pitcairn Island

Objectives

- i) To take responsibility for all medical and health matters on Pitcairn Island
- ii) To provide high quality health care to the residents of Pitcairn Island and any visitors in need of medical assistance, which may include performing all duties of a General Practitioner with public health duties along with emergency medicine, pharmacy, radiography and dentistry if required.

Specific Tasks

1. To perform routine General Practice care at the Pitcairn Island Health Clinic from 9am to 12 midday on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays - this would include all normal General Practice activities including vaccinations, management of chronic illness (e.g. diabetes, hypertension etc), minor surgery, preventative health care etc. The work done during the normal clinic hours is standard General Practice.
2. To take lead responsibility for public health matters with a view to improving the health status of the Island population, including devising and delivery of effective strategies to counter the community's lifestyle issues and challenges and proactively implementing recommendations received from consultants and visiting specialists in the field of public and environmental health.
3. To be on-call for emergency medical care. Although this on-call would be 24 hours per day for 7 days a week, the actual number of call-outs is small.
4. To act as pharmacist in dispensing medications and adequately manage and monitor pharmaceuticals and other medical supplies on patient records and electronic stock books so that orders for new medical supplies could be done in a timely and cost effective manner with minimal wastage.
5. Undertake quarterly stock reviews in line with the ordering cycle for supplies and equipment.
6. To keep the narcotic analgesics in the drug safe and accurately account for their use and obtain counter signature on stock book on a monthly basis.
7. To supervise the taking of X-rays which includes positioning of the patient and using the Exposure Guide. Record findings in patient records. Distant advice should be sought when in doubt. There is also a requirement to monitor usage of X-ray film so that new supplies can be ordered in a timely manner.
8. To apply plasters to fractures as required and to monitor the progress of fracture healing.

9. To take and interpret ECGs as required and obtain distant advice if in doubt.
10. To perform emergency dental procedures (there is a fully equipped dental clinic within the health clinic).
Note that dental visits are organised approximately once every three years, while a locally trained dental nurse provides preventative oral health care in between visits.
11. To monitor environmental and occupational health and compliance with related rules/guidelines on the island and timely alert The Administrator on Pitcairn in case of any concerns.
12. To take ownership, suggest improvements and guide the implementation of the island's Medical Officer's Manual and the Island's Health Policy.
13. To perform house calls where needed.
14. To care for patients in the 2 bed ward located within the health clinic if the need should arise.
15. To provide inpatients with Intravenous fluids and Intravenous medications as required and keep adequate records of care provided, including condition of the patient and routine monitoring measures.
16. To advance and further improve care and support for frail elderly at home in close consultation and collaboration with the Family and Community Adviser, relatives, friends and other support staff on island.
17. To liaise with visiting ships to ensure that no communicable diseases are brought onto the island. This may involve travelling out to the visiting ships and discussing the health of the passengers with either the captain or the ship's doctor.
18. To monitor all the refrigerated medications (e.g. vaccines, insulin etc) to ensure that the cold chain is preserved and expiry dates are respected.
19. To take any necessary pathology samples (e.g. skin excisions, serum) and arrange transfer on the supply ship to Auckland for analysis.
20. To maintain up to date inventory of all medical equipment and timely alert the Pitcairn Islands Office for any required routine maintenance or repairs. Budget requirements and justification for replacement or additional equipment should also be submitted to the Pitcairn Islands Office.
21. To meet with the other Off-Islander professionals (Governor's Representative, Police Officer, FCA and Teacher) monthly for a general discussion. Report in this meeting or within the GPI "Policies and Procedures" structure as appropriate any concerns about child safety or welfare.
22. To provide a yearly first-aid course to the islanders.
23. To contribute and support the Pitcairn Island Strategic Development Plan, where specialist public health and medical knowledge and/or expertise is required.
24. To liaise with Public Health England with respect to International Health Regulations issues and IHR compliance gaps identified in review conducted in early 2013 to ensure compliance by June 2014.
25. To contribute to the development of annual medical estimates to the Pitcairn Islands Office by End November each year to help ensure that the budget contains the

appropriate recurrent and capital investment required to maintain an acceptable medical service to the community.

Required Competencies

- A registered medical practitioner in Australia, New Zealand or the UK. (Other registrations may be considered at the discretion of the Governor)
- ACLS, APLS and ATLS
- Experience in remote and/or isolated situations
- Emergency medicine

Person Specification

- Preferably at least 10 years' experience with a proven track record in general practice.
- Ability to work constructively with other professionals and non-professionals.
- An understanding and ability to work in an isolated and sometimes physically challenging environment.
- To be flexible, innovative and independent.
- To be in good health, applicants will be expected to pass a medical
- An interest in outdoor leisure activities relevant to Island life (e.g. fishing, boating building, weaving) may also be helpful.

Principal Internal and External Contacts:

- On-Island: Governor's Representative, Teacher, Family & Community Advisor, Police Officer, Mayor and Division Manager Community Development.
- Off-Island: Healix International, DFID (Social Development Adviser, Health Adviser and Pitcairn Programme Manager), Deputy Governor, Pitcairn Island Office, Public Health England and UK Department of Health, Director of relevant NGO (if service commissioned through an NGO), specialist advisors for consultation on issues in particular, safeguarding practices and maintaining personal and professional integrity while living in an isolated, close-knit community.

Post Arrangements

Responsible to:

Governor for Pitcairn Island: the MO will be line managed by The Administrator who will oversee performance management on behalf of the Governor.

Day to day management responsibilities lies with the Divisional Manager Community Development.

Contract, terms and conditions:

Managed by Pitcairn Island Office, Auckland

Logistical support:

Managed by Pitcairn Island Office, Auckland

Contract Length:

One year posting

Post Supervision:

The MO is a senior post which will have tasks and responsibilities that in many circumstances are unpredictable and varied. As a result, the postholder will need substantial support from a supervisor or supervisory agency. This is particularly because of the isolated nature of the work and the need to maintain personal and professional discretion at all times. The postholder will therefore be supported through Healix International Limited.

Reporting:

Reporting through The Administrator the MO will produce:

- i) Monthly updates to Pitcairn Island Council;
- ii) Detailed monthly progress reports for the Governor, DFID and PIO.
- iii) Quarterly updates against Pitcairn Health Policy and Routine Health Reporting Format.
- iv) End of contract report detailing progress and outlining opportunities and challenges going forward.
- v) End of contract handover notes for the next MO, to be shared with the Governor's Office, DFID and PIO.
- vi) Any other reports as required to be agreed with PIO (in coordination with The Administrator and the DFID Health Adviser).