Clinical School

The Bay of Plenty Clinical School, based at both Tauranga and Whakatāne hospitals, was established in 2007 and includes: staff education; innovation and research awards; eLearning; clinical simulation training; career development support; libraries; training and conference facilities; medical student placements; an inter-professional rural immersion programme (Whakatāne Hospital); and a self-funding clinical trials unit.

This model is unique among New Zealand DHBs and is proving to be successful for innovation and growth.

Managed by 24 staff across both Tauranga and Whakatāne sites, activity is focused on education and research.
The self-funding Clinical Trials Unit was established in 2009 and is based at Tauranga Hospital complete with clinic rooms to meet with patients on clinical trials.

The unit has undertaken a number of successful device and medication trials in the last five years. This has included participation in several international studies investigating treatments for Breast Cancer, Gout, Crohn’s Disease, Melanoma and Heart Disease.

Every study meets international standards, is thoroughly audited and every patient is closely monitored by their study nurse and doctor receiving lots of specialised care.

The Clinical Trials Unit won a NZ Business Excellence Achievement Award in 2013, being the first research organisation in New Zealand to be recognised.

The team consists of Head of School Peter Gilling, Clinical School Research Manager Rana Reuther, Clinical Research Assistant Linda Pattison and six research nurses.

Usual hours are Monday – Friday 8am-4pm.
Phone 07 579 8565 or email linda.pattison@bopdhb.govt.nz

Research Nurse Wendy Arnold reviews a potential flu patient for an influenza clinical trial.

Learning and development

The Education Team is committed to encouraging innovation and excellence by providing education, professional development, and the recognition of excellence in innovation and research.

The team organise the bi-annual Innovation and Research Awards and administer the annual Midland Advanced Leadership and Leadership in Practice Programmes. Staff can apply for financial support with external study through the Advanced Study Fund, BOP Learning Scholarships and, together with Regional Māori Health Services, the Mai i Ngā Kuri a Wharei ki Tihirau Scholarships. Education team administrators also advertise, book and record staff training attendance for the electronic training records.

eLearning

Our online learning platform, Midland Learning, is part of a regional initiative to
With over 300 different job roles available, careers events showcase the diversity of working at the DHB. eBooks are available at both onsite libraries.

ePortfolios, managed mostly through nursing PDRP, are used to show evidence of meeting professional body competency requirements.

To access Midland Learning and a guide on how to get started with eLearning, click on the Pukeko symbol on the homepage of our intranet.

Career development

BOPDHB offers a confidential personalised in-house consultancy service incorporating the Career Discovery Programme to support staff in their career development. An online career centre is provided with eLearning courses such as Developing a Career Plan.

Libraries

Both Whakatāne and Tauranga hospitals have clinical libraries that are staffed between 8am–4.30pm Monday to Friday. After-hours access is available via swipe card for staff and students on placement.

Library services include: borrowing; literature searching; online databases; inter-library loans; training and departmental continual medical education purchasing. The library pages on our intranet contain the library catalogue and access to electronic resources.
Student placements

The DHB accommodates mainly University of Auckland medical students which have increased in numbers over the years. In 2015 we will get our first cohort of 4th year students. On average a medical student has a placement with us for six weeks. This is the third year with a cohort of 6th year students who stay with us for a year; they have been a welcome addition to the DHB environment. Student placement coordinators in Tauranga and Whakatāne hospitals manage placements from first point of contact to exit survey.

The Whakatāne Rural Health Inter-professional Immersion Programme (RHIIP) is a student placement programme, unique in New Zealand (with only one other site in Gisborne). This is a joint initiative between the University of Auckland, the Auckland University of Technology (AUT), the Bay of Plenty DHB Clinical School and Waiairiki Institute of Technology. RHIIP was developed with funding from Health Workforce New Zealand. The aim is to improve the recruitment and retention of health professionals in rural localities by providing students with an opportunity to live, study and work together in a rural Māori community.

Clinical simulation training

BOPDHB has a family of extremely life-like training manikins including SimMan, SimJunior and SimNewbie (a newborn baby). The high-tech computer controlled manikins represent a real-life person by simulating a wide range of health conditions. They can be programmed by a trainer to go from a healthy, talking person to an unresponsive critical patient with no vital signs.

The manikins were purchased through donations from TECT and the Tauranga Community Health Trust. Clinical Simulation Technician, Erin Locke, provides support for the high-tech equipment.