

Physician Associates



What is a Physician Associate?

- A Physician Associate (PA), while not a doctor, works to a medical model, with the attitudes, skills and knowledge to deliver holistic care within the medical team.
- PAs can take medical histories, perform examinations, and formulate treatment plans.
- They cannot prescribe medication or request x-rays and CT scans.
- Like all junior clinicians, PAs work under the supervision of a named consultant or GP.

Which Qualifications do PAs Have?

- PA training is a 2 year intensive postgraduate course.
- PAs should have a bachelors degree in health or life science.
- More recently, a PA can take a 4 year Physician Associate studies undergraduate course.
- To become a registered PA in the UK, an additional post qualification national exam and OSCE assessment must be passed.
- The PA profession at present is voluntarily regulated. Regulation under the General Medical Council will commence at the end of 2024.

Benefits of Physician Associates:

- Continuity of care; subsequently better health outcomes and higher patient satisfaction.
- Reduced waiting times.
- Reduced likelihood of cancelled appointments.
- Reduced discharge delays.
- Greater clinic appointment availability.
- Overall increased service efficiency and productivity

For more information and study references, please see our information leaflet available through the above QR code.