



Physician Associates



What are physician associates?

Physician associates (PA) work alongside doctors providing medical care as part of the multidisciplinary team. PAs are dependent practitioners working with a dedicated supervisor, but can also work independently on specific tasks.



What do they do?

- Take patient histories.
- Carry out physical examinations.
- See patients with long-term conditions.
- Perform diagnostic and therapeutic procedures.
- Develop and deliver appropriate treatment and management plans.
- Request and interpret diagnostic studies.



Training and qualifications

- A two-year postgraduate medical education programme to develop clinical capabilities, competencies and reasoning to undertake the duties required in primary and secondary care.
- 1600 hours of clinical placement.
- Maintain 50 hours of CPD each year.
- Sit a recertification examination every six years.



What are the benefits of having a PA in the team?

The PA skills mix allows for practice across a range of medical specialties, freeing up senior doctors to deal with complex cases. PAs can also provide cover so that trainee doctors and surgeons can attend training, clinics or theatre.

The PA profession contributes to a stable, workforce, addressing challenges caused by medical rotations and medical under-recruitment, and providing continuity of care for patients.

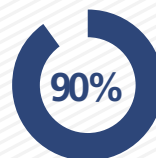


A rewarding job?



Nearly all employed in the NHS.

According to the Faculty of Physician Associates' 2017 census...



of respondents were very or moderately satisfied with their job.



agreed or agreed strongly that they enjoyed their job.



agreed or agreed strongly they would recommend a career as a PA to a friend.

Further Information

The Faculty of Physicians Associates (FPA) is the professional body representing physician associates and is based at the Royal College of Physicians www.rcplondon.ac.uk/fpa

NHS Employers www.nhsemployers.org/maps

Source: FPA annual census 2017 <http://www.fparcp.co.uk/about-fpa/fpa-census>