

# Physician Associate

## Overview of the role

Indictive Salary AfC 7  
AfC PA Preceptorship 6

Max reimbursable amount over  
12 months (with on cost) -  
£53,724

Physician associates are healthcare professionals with a generalist medical education, who work alongside doctors providing medical care as an integral part of the multidisciplinary team. Physician associates are dependent practitioners who work under the supervision of a fully trained and experienced doctor. They bring new talent add to the skill mix within teams, providing a stable, generalist section of the workforce which can help ease the workforce pressures that the NHS currently faces.

## Funding

From April 2020, this role will be reimbursed at 100% of actual salary plus defined on-costs, up to the maximum reimbursable amount of £53,724 over 12 months via Primary Care Networks.

## Training/Development

Physician Associate students already have an undergraduate degree in a life science and/or a significant background in healthcare. To become a physician associate, students take a 2-year, full-time, intensive Postgraduate course at diploma or masters level in Physician Associate studies. A list of courses can be found here:

<https://www.fparcp.co.uk/becoming-a-pa>.

It includes over 1,400 hours of clinical placement experience in both acute and community settings. A new route via a 4-year undergraduate Masters programme will run subject to approval. Once qualified, physician associates must maintain 50 hours of CPD per year and sit a recertification examination every 6 years.

## Activities Undertaken

- "Taking medical histories from patients
- Performing physical examinations
- Seeing patients with undifferentiated diagnoses

## Skills and Competencies

The FPA website lists a number of template PA person specifications on their website under the useful resources section:

<https://www.fparcp.co.uk/employers/pas-in-general-practice>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seeing patients with long-term chronic conditions</li> <li>• Formulating differential diagnoses and management plans</li> <li>• Performing diagnostic and therapeutic procedures</li> <li>• Developing and delivering appropriate treatment and management plans</li> <li>• Requesting and interpreting diagnostic studies</li> <li>• Providing health promotion and disease prevention advice</li> <li>• Peak flow examination</li> <li>• Urine dip stick</li> </ul>	<p>MSc - Pass 2-year PA university course at Diploma or MSc level, after a 3-year healthcare related degree.</p>
<p><b>Supervision</b></p> <p>The FPA website provides a dedicated session for GP supervisor and Physician Associate guide under the useful resource tab on their website.</p> <p><a href="https://www.fparcp.co.uk/employers/pas-in-general-practice">https://www.fparcp.co.uk/employers/pas-in-general-practice</a></p>	<p><b>Education Providers</b></p> <p>There are around 32 Physician Associate education providers across England.</p> <p>A list of course providers can be found here:</p> <p><a href="https://www.fparcp.co.uk/becoming-a-pa">https://www.fparcp.co.uk/becoming-a-pa</a></p>
<p><b>Job Description</b></p> <p>NHSE/I National have developed JD's and recruitment packs - Awaiting approval via BMA and Gateway process.</p> <p>A template job description for PAs in general practice can also be found under useful resources here:</p> <p><a href="https://www.fparcp.co.uk/employers/pas-in-general-practice">https://www.fparcp.co.uk/employers/pas-in-general-practice</a></p>	<p><b>Case Studies</b></p> <p><a href="https://fparcp.co.uk/employers/pas-in-general-practice">https://fparcp.co.uk/employers/pas-in-general-practice</a></p>
<p><b>Additional Resources</b></p> <p><a href="https://fparcp.co.uk/employers/pas-in-general-practice">https://fparcp.co.uk/employers/pas-in-general-practice</a></p> <p><a href="https://fparcp.co.uk/employers/guidance">https://fparcp.co.uk/employers/guidance</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.hee.nhs.uk/our-work/primary-care/physician-associates-primary-care">https://www.hee.nhs.uk/our-work/primary-care/physician-associates-primary-care</a></p>	

<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/medical-associate-professions/roles-medical-associate-professions/physician-associate/physician-associates-general-practice>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IhF4Rj5SGeM&index=1&list=PLrVQaAxyJE3f0bJP7K7T81Ew27EecVVb4>