


# Exploring the vision; Physician Associate

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Developing people  
for health and  
healthcare

[www.hee.nhs.uk](http://www.hee.nhs.uk)

# Intended Learning Outcomes

- **Understanding the Department of Health Vision for the Physician Associate**
- **Evaluating how the Physician Associate could enhance safe patient care in the NHS.**
- **Exploring your thoughts**

**Debate;**

**What is holistic person centred care?**

# What is a Physician Associate?

*'A Physician Associate is a healthcare professional who is trained to the medical model and who works as part of a medical team to provide holistic medical care'*

**Support the delivery of medical care in the 'pinched' areas of the NHS**



# History

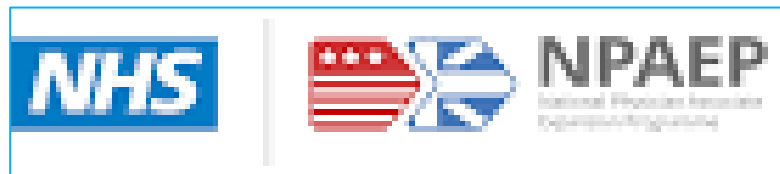
1961

First proposed  
in the USA



2006

First proposed in  
the UK



Royal College  
of Physicians

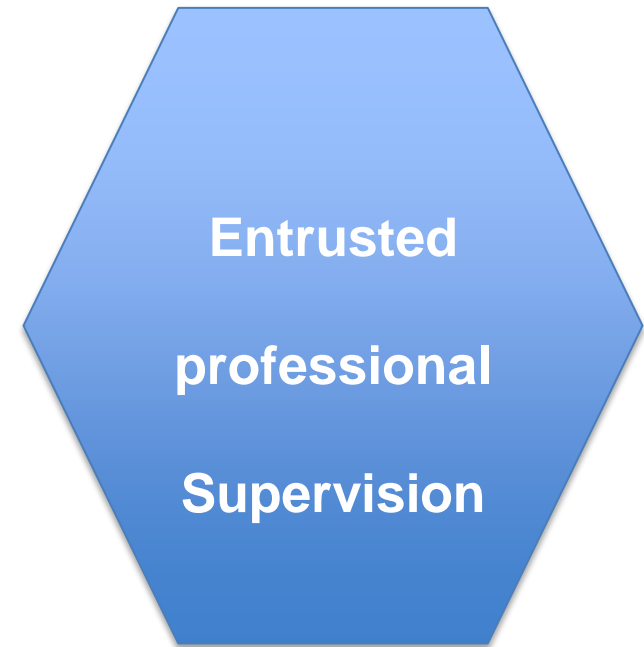
Faculty of  
Physician Associates

# How are Physician Associates trained ?

- Postgraduate 2 year diploma
- Completion of the DoH competence curriculum framework (3200 hours with 1600 clinical hours)
- National certification exam (OSCEs and MCQs)
- Re-certification every 6 years with same exam.
- Post qualification 50 hours per year CPD.

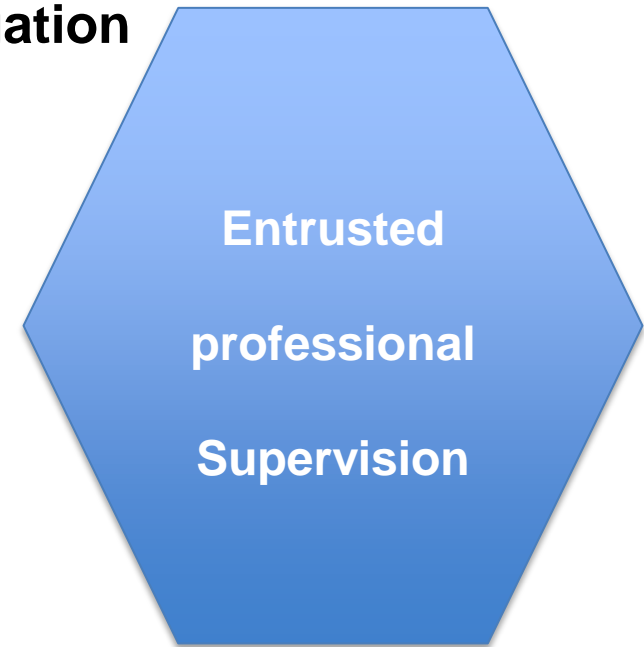
# What can Physician Associates do?

- Take focused clinical histories
- Clinical examinations
- Order investigations
- Formulate differential diagnosis
- Clinical specialty Referrals
- Suggest medication
- Manage chronic disease
- Support services



## Good Medical Practice GMC 2014 - Delegation

**‘Paragraph 45;** When you do not provide your patients’ care yourself, for example when you are off duty or you delegate the care of a patient to a colleague, you must be satisfied that the person providing care has the appropriate qualifications, skills and experience to provide the safe patient care.





# The North West Experience

Decline in medical training recruitment

Project commenced March 2015

159 student PAs commenced across 3 HEIs  
Feb 2016

Further intake of 160 student PAs planned for  
January 2017

HEE NW School of Physician Associates



**Debate;**

**Do you see a role for the  
Physician Associate in your  
service?**

# Physician Associate; Value v's Risk

## Value

- Support training time
- Enhancing continuity of care
- Development for specific organisational need
- Support of pinched areas of NHS service delivery

## Risk

- Regulation
- Prescribing
- Ionising radiation
- Longitudinal revalidation

# A question of balance

## The extended surgical team

‘The RCS set out to understand the role of non-medical practitioners in these extended surgical teams, the impact they can have on patient care and how they can enhance the training junior doctors receive. Views on extended surgical teams were **overwhelmingly positive.**’



## Advantages

- **Enabling doctors in training** to leave the wards to attend teaching or theatres.
- Allowing trainees to stand in the **best vantage** point in theatre for **learning**.
- Helping new doctors **settle into rotations** more quickly.
- Reducing the occasions that higher surgical trainees are called out of theatre.
- **Giving consultants' confidence** to step out of the room and leave senior trainees to operate with a skilled assistant.

**Questions ?**

**What do we (HEE NW) School of  
Physician Associate need from  
you?**

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