



Royal College
of Physicians

Faculty of
Physician Associates

**Guiding, supporting and
pioneering the
Physician Associate profession**

What does the FPA do?

- ✓ Guides PAs on their career journey
- ✓ Supports their growth
- ✓ Sets standards and campaigns for progress
- ✓ Pioneers for the future





Who are Physician Associates?



Medically trained, generalist healthcare professionals.



An integral part of the multidisciplinary team in over 50 specialities.



Able to work autonomously while operating own clinics.



What can PAs do?



Take medical histories and perform physical examinations to help diagnose patients.



Perform diagnostic and therapeutic procedures and request and interpret diagnostic studies.



See patients with long-term chronic conditions and formulate differential diagnoses and management plans.



Provide health promotion and disease prevention advice for patients.

What are PAs saying?

‘When I reflect on the growth of the PA profession since my early days, it is encouraging and motivating to see that there are many more opportunities for us now.’

‘As a PA, I’m able to be there as a consistent point of contact and support for patients. The relationship I create with them and their families makes my role so rewarding.’

‘I enjoy how I can support outpatient clinics and care for patients on the wards. It’s a special part of the role, gaining their trust, and helping them to feel comfortable in your presence.’

‘I’ve supported cancer teams in surgery, which has been interesting and rewarding.’

‘I get to be involved in many innovative procedures and clinics to help benefit patients.’





How do PAs support doctors?

‘Consultants enjoy having PAs in the team due to how versatile we are, and the support we provide by getting involved in multiple clinical pathways.’

‘We’re a support system for junior doctors during the induction period. We’re available to help guide and show them systems, leaving consultants free for patients.’

‘Junior doctors appreciate us too. Urology is a skill-based specialty and for a new junior doctor it can be daunting; we can help guide them through the learning curves.’



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