



Training the Physician Associates of the future

Supporting the development of Physician Associates
across Kent, Surrey and Sussex



What is a Physician Associate?

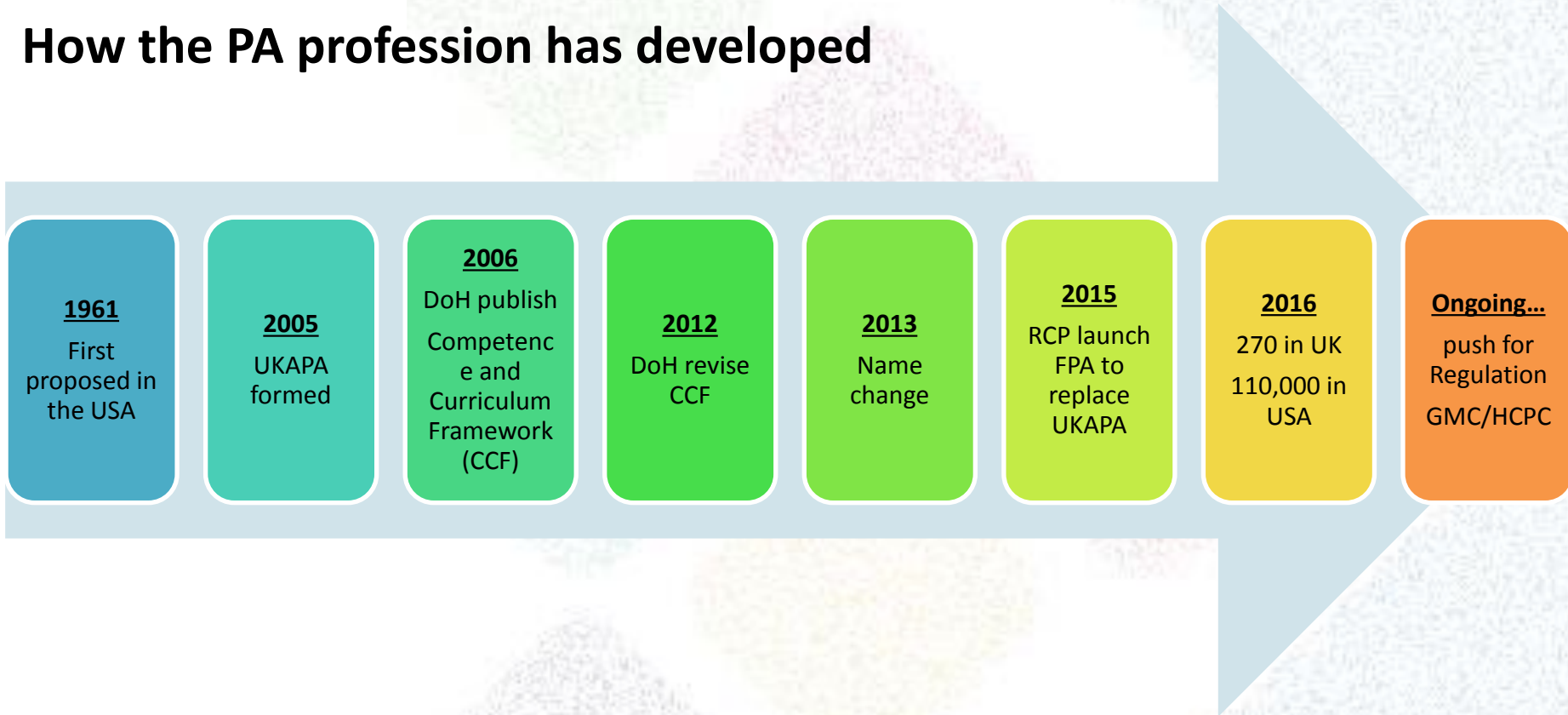
A PA is a healthcare professional who is trained to the medical model and who works as part of a medical team to provide holistic medical care



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How the PA profession has developed





What can PAs do?

- ◆ Take a focussed history
- ◆ Examine a patient
- ◆ Undertake/request appropriate diagnostic tests and investigations
- ◆ Interpret tests and investigations
- ◆ Formulate differential diagnoses
- ◆ Refer to other teams as required
- ◆ Suggest medications
- ◆ Compile a treatment and management plan

All with physician supervision



Training includes:

- ◆ Prescribe (pharmacology and therapeutics)
- ◆ IM/IV/O2 Therapy
- ◆ Request ionising radiation

unable to do
until
Regulation



Where do PAs work?

Adult Medical

- Cardiology
- Care of the Elderly
- Dermatology
- Endocrinology
- Gastroenterology
- General Internal Medicine
- Sexual Health
- Haematology
- Infectious Diseases
- Lymphoedema
- Psychiatry
- Rehabilitation Medicine
- Respiratory Medicine

General

- Educators
- Emergency Medicine
- General Practice
- Acute medical/clinical decision units

Paediatrics

- Critical Care
- General Paediatrics
- Paediatric Surgery

Surgical

- Breast Surgery
- Colorectal Surgery
- Neurosurgery
- Orthopaedic Surgery
- Otolaryngology
- Spinal Surgery
- Trauma and Orthopaedics
- Urology
- Vascular Surgery



PGDip/MSc Physician Associate Studies

Entry requirements - at least 2:2 in science based BSc

Masters level/intensive study

2 year full-time (45 weeks / year), MSc up to 3 years

1600+ hours – university based

1600+ hours – placement based in Hospital and GP

Courses now available at universities all over the country....

Brighton and Sussex Medical School
Canterbury Christ Church University
University of Surrey
Anglia Ruskin
Plymouth

Birmingham
St George's London
Leeds
Reading
Sheffield Hallam
Aberdeen

Wolverhampton
Worcester
Liverpool
Manchester
Central Lancashire
and Dublin



PA Education and Training

The Competence and Curriculum Framework (CCF)



Standards of education and practice, including:

- Core competencies
- Procedural skills
- Patient presentations
- Clinical conditions

Secondary Care Placement Rotations

Specialty
A&E/ED
Acute Medicine
General Surgery
Paeds
O&G
General Medicine all/some of Geriatrics, Gastro, Cardio, Respiratory, Endo
Mental Health at Partnership Trust



National Exam

Upon completion of university course

200 single best answer and 14 station OSCE

Examined across range of specialities

Recertification

6 yearly cycle

200 single best answer examination

CPD

50 hours/year



How does it work in practice?

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PAAs working in Secondary Care

Clinical

- ◆ Patient reviews
- ◆ Family meetings
- ◆ Clerking
- ◆ Clinic
- ◆ Theatre
- ◆ Clinical Procedures
bloods, cannulas, ABGs, pleural tap, chest drain, LP, ascitic tap, ascitic drain

Organisational/Leadership

- ◆ Induction of junior doctors
- ◆ PA/Medical student teaching
- ◆ Morbidity & Mortality
- ◆ Audit
- ◆ Leadership projects
- ◆ Departmental meetings
- ◆ Safety leads
- ◆ Culture champions



What do PAs do at SASH?

Geriatrics

CGA assessments, OPALS assessments, ward rounds, cognitive assessments, on call duties

Orthogeriatrics

NOF# bleep carrier, ward reviews, post op reviews, falls clinic

Cardiology

ETT's, angio sessions, ward duties, day case mx

Respiratory

PE pathways, acute respiratory admissions, NIV round

Emergency Department

Acute Medicine

Each PA has sessions in acute medicine



Employing PAs

- Agenda for Change: Band 7
- Many take job in hospital where they trained
- Consistency: 6-12 months in role before rotating
- Map role to supervisors job plan
- Consider a team of PAs – support and avoid isolation



Retaining PAs

- Currently need outstrips supply
- Make role interesting and varied
- Extended skills
- PDP, study budget, study leave

Value....

Nurture....

Develop....



Student Supervision

- ◆ Named consultant supervisor with experience of supervising students
- ◆ PA specific training/orientation
- ◆ Informal “start of placement” review
- ◆ Variety of assessment methods- encourage MDT completion
- ◆ End of placement review with named clinical supervisor
- ◆ Fitness to practice concerns relayed to HEI



Student Expectations

Active participation
in ward round

Help team with ward jobs

“Interesting” patients

Observe imaging, interventions
and advanced procedures

DOPS

Clerking

**Shadowing
in clinic**



Where can I get more information or support?

◆ Course / Student specific : contact your local University

Canterbury Christ Church/University of Kent – Sue Graham
Brighton and Sussex Medical School – Wesley Scott-Smith
University of Surrey – Sofia Khan

◆ General queries

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