

Workforce Transformation

3rd Floor
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01 June 2015

Dear Colleague

RE: Physician Associates

The appetite for introducing Physician Associates roles (PAs) is growing steadily across all health care sectors, in response primarily to the shortage of doctors in a number of specialities e.g. Emergency medicine, elderly care/rehabilitation and general practice.

Physician Associates originated in the US, where they have been part of the healthcare workforce since the 1960's, supporting doctors in the diagnosis and management of patients. They are trained to perform a number of roles including taking medical histories, performing examinations and differential diagnosis, analysing test results and developing management plans under the supervision of a doctor.

As part of the Workforce Transformation programme, Health Education North West is intending to introduce a pilot cohort of PAs in 2015/16 and is seeking expressions of interest from Providers across the NW health system, to sponsor the initiative.

To inform applications, please find enclosed the following relevant information;

- 1) Context for PA pilot
- 2) Further detail regarding the role of Physician Associates, including how they differ to Advanced Practitioners and their regulatory status
- 2) The Funding Model
- 4) The Expression of Interest template
- 5) Mental Health and Primary Care case studies

We aim to pilot an initial cohort of approximately 60 PAs commencing in 2015/16 and are looking for each Sponsoring Provider to accommodate between 5 and 10 either individually or cross health economy, to ensure appropriate evaluation of placement experience and supervision in training.

We are the Local Education and Training Board for the North West

Should there be greater demand, we will endeavour to meet this.

All Expressions of Interest should be returned to Jessica.Lord@nw.hee.nhs.uk no later than the **1st July 2015**, with a view to confirming proposed allocations week commencing 13th July 2015.

In the meantime, if you would like to discuss further please do not hesitate to contact Kirstie.baxter@nw.hee.nhs.uk, Head of Workforce Transformation or Suzanne.hughes@nw.hee.nhs.uk, Programme Lead Emergency and Urgent Care.

Yours sincerely,



Kirstie Baxter
Head of Workforce Transformation