

	Physician Associate	Advanced Nurse Practitioner
Definition and context	<p><b>‘a new healthcare professional who, while not a doctor, works to the medical model, with the attitudes, skills and knowledge base to deliver holistic care and treatment within the general medical and/or general practice team under a defined level of supervision’ (RCP)</b></p> <p>In mid-2013 the profession changed its name from ‘physician assistant’ to ‘physician associate’ to avoid confusion with some other health professions in the UK that use the first title.</p> <p>As of late 2012, there were approximately 150 PAs working in Britain, practising in 20 different specialities in more than 25 acute NHS Trusts, as well as in primary care – there are no records for the North West.</p>	<p><b>‘ a registered practitioner who has acquired an expert knowledge base, complex decision making skills and clinical competences for expanded scope of practice, the characteristics of which are shaped by the context in which the individual practices.’ (NHS NW)</b></p> <p>There are currently approximately 850 qualified Advanced Practitioners across the North West region, with a further 200 in training. Roles have been introduced in a range of service areas including primary care, acute services, mental health and child health.</p>
Clinical practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support doctors in the diagnosis and management of patients</li> <li>• Take medical histories</li> <li>• Perform examinations</li> <li>• Analyse test results</li> <li>• Make diagnoses</li> <li>• Work with patients to agree a comprehensive management plan</li> <li>• Request and interpret diagnostics and undertake patient education, counselling and health promotion</li> <li>• Maintain and deliver the clinical management of patients on behalf of the supervisor</li> <li>• Order some investigations excluding x-ray ordering (and in some cases ultrasound) and writing prescriptions</li> <li>• Manage medications including assessment, review</li> </ul> <p>(Adapted from PAMVR 2012)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work autonomously making decisions, for which they are accountable as a regulated professional</li> <li>• Take medical histories</li> <li>• Perform examinations</li> <li>• Analyse test results</li> <li>• Make diagnoses</li> <li>• Work with patients to agree a comprehensive management plan</li> <li>• Request and interpret diagnostics and undertake patient education, counselling and health promotion</li> <li>• Maintain and deliver the clinical management of patients</li> <li>• Order necessary investigations and provide treatment and care</li> <li>• Manage medications including assessment, review and prescribing</li> <li>• Authority to admit or discharge patients from caseload and refer patients to other health care providers as appropriate</li> <li>• Provide leadership and consultancy function as required.</li> </ul> <p>(Adapted from RCN 2008)</p>

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

<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);"><b>Supervision</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Always work under supervision of a designated senior doctor (consultant, registrar or general practitioner)</li> <li>• Supervising doctor always maintains the ultimate responsibility for the patient</li> <li>• No professional registration currently. At present there is a Managed Voluntary Register for PAs until statutory regulation can be achieved. The Register is there to protect the public and employers</li> </ul> <p>(Adapted from PAMVR 2012, P7)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accountable through professional registration with the NMC/HPC</li> <li>• Able to supervise the practice of other health professionals</li> </ul>
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);"><b>Education</b></p>	<p>Two year PGDip/Masters PA</p> <p><b>Entry Requirements;</b> candidates with an existing first degree in a science related subject (i.e. not exclusively to existing clinical professionals), making it an attractive option to attract additional supply of healthcare workforce to the NHS.</p> <p>There is a set national curriculum for PAs which all universities who deliver PA programmes are required to adhere to. Based on this national curriculum all PAs must pass an examination of knowledge, skill and competence set by their university as well as the national examination. This ensures all PAs are of a set standard at graduation.</p> <p>Once PAs qualify, they retake their exam every six years to ensure they remain competent and undertake 40 hours of continuing professional development (CPD) each year.</p>	<p>Two Year MSC</p> <p><b>Entry Requirements;</b> typically qualified Nurse or Allied Health Professional with a minimum 3 years post registration experience, working minimum 18.5 hours.</p> <p>Typically have NMC/HPC recorded Non-Medical Prescribing qualification.</p> <p>Are required to maintain annual registration with the NMC/HPC in order to practice and are subject to periodic review every 3 years of compliance with the post-registration education and practice (Prep) requirements.</p> <p>Nurse revalidation will begin from 2016 and every three years thereafter. Also required to undertake 40 hours of continuing professional development (CPD) over the three years prior to the renewal of registration.</p>

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

<b>Clinical placement requirement</b>	<p>Ninety weeks (over 2 years) should constitute a minimum of 3,150 hours of normal study time. Of this time, a minimum of 1,600 should be designated as clinical learning.</p> <p>The minimum core placements are as follows:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Community Medicine</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: right;">180 Hours</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">General Hospital Medicine</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: right;">350 Hours</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Front Door Medicine<sup>1</sup></td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: right;">180 Hours</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Mental Health</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: right;">90 Hours</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">General Surgery</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: right;">90 Hours</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Obstetrics &amp; Gynaecology</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: right;">90 Hours</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Paediatrics (acute setting)</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: right;">90 Hours</td> </tr> </table> <p>This adds up to 1,070 hours, leaving a maximum of 530 hours to be assigned by sponsoring providers.</p>	Community Medicine	180 Hours	General Hospital Medicine	350 Hours	Front Door Medicine <sup>1</sup>	180 Hours	Mental Health	90 Hours	General Surgery	90 Hours	Obstetrics & Gynaecology	90 Hours	Paediatrics (acute setting)	90 Hours	<p>Facilitated work-based learning driven by provider need and service redesign. Includes a number of core and optional modules, focused on extending the practitioners knowledge and skills to advanced levels within their existing specialist area of practice and developing critical understanding of research methodologies.</p> <p>At masters level this includes c.6 modules over 2 years, the remainder of the programme being undertaken in the clinical setting i.e. no fixed clinical placement requirement.</p>
Community Medicine	180 Hours															
General Hospital Medicine	350 Hours															
Front Door Medicine <sup>1</sup>	180 Hours															
Mental Health	90 Hours															
General Surgery	90 Hours															
Obstetrics & Gynaecology	90 Hours															
Paediatrics (acute setting)	90 Hours															
<b>Pay band</b>	c. Agenda for change Band 7	c. Agenda for change Band 8a and above														

## References

Physician Associate Managed Voluntary Register (2012) *Competence and curriculum Framework for the Physician Assistant March 2012*. Available from <http://www.ukapa.co.uk/files/CCF-27-03-12-for-PAMVR.pdf>

Royal College of Nursing (2008) *Advanced Nurse Practitioners An RCN guide to advanced nursing practice, advanced nurse practitioners and programme accreditation May 2012*. Available from [https://www.rcn.org.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0003/146478/003207.pdf](https://www.rcn.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/146478/003207.pdf)

Department of Health (2010) *Advanced Level Nursing: A Position Statement 2010*. Available from <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/advanced-level-nursing-a-position-statement>

NHS NW, *Concordat Agreement 2009*. Available from <http://www.nwwmhub.nhs.uk/developing-roles/advanced-practitioner/>

Royal College of Physicians, *Satisfaction of doctors with the role of physician associates 2014*. Available from <http://www.clinmed.rcpjournals.org/content/14/2/113.full>

<sup>1</sup> This should include significant experience in Emergency Medicine. We are the Local Education and Training Board for the North West



Health Education North West

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

*Developing people  
for health and  
healthcare*

[www.nw.hee.nhs.uk](http://www.nw.hee.nhs.uk)  
[twitter.com/HENorthWest](https://twitter.com/HENorthWest)