



Royal College  
of Physicians

Faculty of  
Physician Associates

## Physician Associate FAQ

### Who are Physician Associates?

Physician Associates are post-graduates in life sciences who go on to study a two year course in Medicine. Developed from the American model and working under the supervision of a Doctor, they are able to assist in the diagnosis, management and treatment of patients with both acute and chronic illnesses. They practice independently, seeking advice when required from a senior.

### What can a Physician Associate do?

Physician Associates can do all the same examinations that your Doctor can, such as listening to your heart and lungs, examining sore joints and bones, examining ears and throat, and they also include Women's health. A Physician Associate can also order and interpret your blood tests, swabs and samples and perform practical skills such as Injections and pessary fittings.

### Why am I seeing a Physician Associate and not my Doctor?

Not every illness needs to be seen by a Doctor and here at High Pastures we recognise that the Physician Associates are a valuable tool in helping patients have quicker and easier access to healthcare.

### Are Physician Associates regulated?

Physician Associates are required to be on the Physician Associate Managed Voluntary Register in order to practice. They are due to be regulated officially by the General Medical Council in 2021.

**For More information please see;**

The Faculty of Physician Associates Website

<https://www.fparcp.co.uk>

Report by NHS England on Physician Associates in General Practice.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/gp/case-studies/the-physician-associate-will-see-you-now-new-role-to-assist-patients-in-primary-care/>

General Medical Council

<https://www.gmc-uk.org/news/news-archive/map-regulation>