NHS
Health Education England

Our ref: Physician Associates in Primary Care
Your ref:

Department of Education and Quality

Blenheim House
Duncombe Street
Leeds
LS1 4PL

E. primarycare@hee.nhs.uk

28 August 2018

Dear colleagues,

Physician Associates (PA) in Primary Care

The GPFV made a specific commitment for HEE to train 1,000 Physician Associates into general practice by 2020.

Physician associates have an increasing role to play in primary care as part of a multi-skilled workforce, and HEE continues to invest in the growth of the PA profession, supporting both education and workforce development.

HEE are committed to supporting the development of multi-professional primary care teams. A number of initiatives have been put in place to help primary care workforce leads understand the role, development needs and potential for PAs in General Practice. We would like to share some of these initiatives with you.

HEE have developed a single, nationally aligned investment model for PA education and training, and further information regarding this can be accessed here. We would encourage you to circulate the details of this funding model with your partners, via your own forums and channels. This targeted investment model will support all student PAs and provide an incentive and development opportunity for graduates who choose primary care-based careers.

If you have any queries about the national funding model, do liaise with your local PA Lead in the first instance; contact details can be found here.

Other materials contained within this information pack include:

PA slide pack:
This includes information aimed at clarifying the role and responsibilities of a PA in a primary care setting. It also provides information relating to the various courses that are available within the UK as well as a map of numbers graduating by region.

Marketing materials
- An A5 booklet already shared with every GP practice in England
- A recruitment flyer briefly outlining the steps to recruit a PA into general practice. This can be accessed here
- HEE are also hosting a series of regional seminars targeted at employers and education providers in Autumn 2018 which aim to raise the profile of PAs (along with the remaining three Medical Associate Profession roles). Registration can be accessed here
- Case studies are currently in development and will be circulated in due course

Further information regarding the role and a comprehensive list of FAQs are available on the Faculty of Physician Associates (FPA) website http://www.fparcp.co.uk/employers/pas-in-general-practice.

We hope that these resources will assist you in supporting the development of PAs in your workforce. Please share them widely with your colleagues and don't forget to promote them via your own channels. Thank you very much for your continued support, and if you would like to raise any issues or questions please contact us at primarycare@hee.nhs.uk

With all best wishes,

HEE Primary and Community Care Team