

## Public questions and answers: Integrated Care Partnership meeting, 25 July 2024

### Questions received from the public with responses

#### Question 1

1 - Are you intending to reassess the use of Physician Associates (PA ) and Anaesthetist Associates (AA) in light of the BMAs recent survey and the legal action they are taking?

Myself and many others are very concerned about the use and increase of non-doctors with only 2years training becoming more prevalent in both GP practices and our Hospitals. Especially as deaths have occurred because of missed diagnoses. I personally have had difficult experiences of PAs in hospitals.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SURVEY (full survey in the link below)

- PAs working in general practice must always work under the supervision of qualified GPs.
- PAs must be considered additional members of the team, rather than substitutes for GPs.
- PAs do not replace GPs or mitigate the need to urgently address the shortage of GPs.
- PAs must be regulated as soon as possible.
- Public awareness and understanding of the PA role must be improved.
- Training, induction and supervision of PAs within general practice must be properly designed and resourced.
- At a time of significant GP workforce challenges, funding allocations, resources and learning opportunities within general practice must be prioritised for the training and retention of GPs.
- The significant responsibility and skills required for supervision must be recognised and resourced, with GPs able to choose whether or not they are willing to undertake supervision of PAs. PAs should not be employed unless sufficient supervision can be provided.

**Link to BMA Survey:-**

<https://www.rcgp.org.uk/representing-you/policy-areas/physician-associates>

**Link to BMAs concern the GMC being responsible FA/PA**

<https://www.gponline.com/bma-dismayed-mps-rubber-stamp-plan-gmc-regulate-physician-associates/article/1858505> h

**link to legal action:-**

<https://www.pulsetoday.co.uk/news/breaking-news/bma-to-take-legal-action-against-gmc-over-pa-regulation/>

**Deaths occurring through missed diagnosis;-**

	<p>1 - <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-manchester-66211103">https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-manchester-66211103</a> 2 - <a href="https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/10/21/death-heart-problem-doctor-physician-associate/#:~:text=Man%20died%20from%20rare%20heart%20problem%20after%20being%20discharged%20from%20hospital,-Ben">https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/10/21/death-heart-problem-doctor-physician-associate/#:~:text=Man%20died%20from%20rare%20heart%20problem%20after%20being%20discharged%20from%20hospital,-Ben</a></p>
<b>Response</b>	<p>The ICB is the organisation within the partnership with responsibility for GP practices in south east London. The ICB has no plans to reassess the use of physician associates but will continue to implement NHS guidance and be receptive to ideas on how this important part of our workforce can contribute effectively and safely to improving health and care in south east London.</p>