***Cheshire & Merseyside Primary Care Physician Associate Preceptorship Programme***

**Introduction:**

Cheshire & Merseyside Training Hub is working with NHS England & Improvement (NHSEI) and Health Education England (HEE) to find ways to support newly qualified or new to practice Physician Associates (PA) working in general practice or PCNs. There is growing awareness of the need to support primary care colleagues in order to improve retention, wellbeing and professional development[[1]](#footnote-1)of these roles.

This PA Preceptorship Programme is available to newly qualified PA’s or those transitioning from another area and entering primary care on a substantive contract within the PCN or practice.

**The offer:**

The Cheshire and Merseyside Training Hub is offering 12 places on the PA Preceptorship programme which will include access to weekly virtual education and networking opportunities. The programme is being provided by the North Staffordshire GP Federation, who have offered this programme for a number of years and the programme has been endorsed by the RCGP.

The PA will need to be released on a Wednesday morning each week to participate in the educational sessions which will mainly be delivered virtually; across the 12months there will be 36 taught speciality modules and 10 self-directed learning modules with support material. The programme will start at the beginning of September 2021 and a draft copy of the teaching programme is available below. The PA will be expected to attend a minimum of 41 modules.

Please note the PA will still require a named clinical supervisor in practice.



**Funding:**

The Training Hub is accessing funding from NHSEI to cover the programme delivery costs. Whilst there is no funding available for the PA’s time to attend the programme, a practice or PCN employing a newly qualified PA can apply to HEE for a £5000 grant to support with clinical supervision and access to education. This programme meets the educational requirements for this grant.

**Eligibility and places:**

The programme is available to PAs in their first 12 months post qualification, or for PAs transitioning to general practice from another setting (i.e. moving from the acute trust).

We appreciate that there have been enquiries about how the Training Hubs can support PA education after their first year in practice and we are exploring resources available to support this.

The places will be based on first come first serve, but with consideration to geographical split (for example, if we receive multiple applications from a single PCN we may only be able to support a proportion of these for this first cohort). If we receive more than 12 applications we will add PAs to a waiting list for any further cohorts.

**Evaluation:**

To assess the impact of the programme the Training Hub will require participants to complete an evaluation to help inform future programmes.

**How can we find out more information?**

Please see the Q&A section in Appendix A. If you still require any more information please contact either [Katie.Power@sthelensccg.nhs.uk](mailto:Katie.Power@sthelensccg.nhs.uk) or [trish.atkinson@nhs.net](mailto:trish.atkinson@nhs.net)

**How to take part:**

Complete the short application form in Appendix B and return this by **28th July 2021** to [ecccg.cheshiretraininghub@nhs.net](mailto:ecccg.cheshiretraininghub@nhs.net)

Appendix A

**Q&A**

**I have more than one newly qualified PA working in my practice/PCN, can they all participate?**

Whilst all newly qualified PAs employed in general practice or PCNs can apply, we may need to allocate places fairly considering geography/PCN allocation.

**Is the training accredited?**

The programme is not accredited, however the RCGP have endorsed the Staffordshire Physician Associate Internship teaching programme.

**Will the programme be available in future years?**

We want to evaluate the programme from the first Cohort and hope to be able to offer a similar programme in future years.

**Can my PA who is in their second year post qualifying apply?**

If the PA is transitioning to general practice from another area they can still apply for this programme so long as they meet the eligibility criteria set out above. For those PAs who have already been working in general practice for 12months, this initial cohort will prioritise newly qualified PAs in their first 12months post qualifying. This is because the programme is designed to bridge the gap between PA knowledge upon qualification or new to practice to the end of year one when they will work more independently. We are currently exploring options for education to support those PAs in practice who are post 12months qualifying.

**We have not yet recruited a PA but hope to employ one in the next few months so can we still apply?**

Yes you can still apply, however we need to confirm the places on the cohort by the end of July so will need to have a named PA by the end of July who meets the criteria.

**Can my PA attend the educational sessions on a different day?**

No, the educational sessions will be on Wednesday mornings

**Will the educational sessions be recorded?**

No, to protect confidentiality and encourage discussion the sessions will not be recorded.

**How will I know that my PA is participating in the sessions, especially the self-directed sessions?**

We will be monitoring attendance at all sessions and any concerns will be raise with the practice

**How can we find out more information?**

If you require any more information please contact either [Katie.Power@sthelensccg.nhs.uk](mailto:Katie.Power@sthelensccg.nhs.uk) or [trish.atkinson@nhs.net](mailto:trish.atkinson@nhs.net)

Appendix B

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| Application Form for PA Preceptorship |
| PRACTICE DETAILS  PCN Name & CCG:  Practice/PCN Contact Name:  Practice/PCN Contact email address:  Practice/PCN Contact phone number:  Clinical Supervisor Name (*If different to above)*:  Clinical Supervisor email address (*If different to above)*: |
| PA DETAILS  PA Name:  PA email address:  Contact phone number:  *If your application is for multiple PAs please include details for each individual PA wishing to take part.* |
| Please confirm that your PA meets the following criteria:  The PA is fully qualified  The PA is within their first 12mths post qualification or new to general practice (within 12mths)  The PA has a named Clinical Supervisor in the practice/PCN  The practice/PCN commits to release the PA to attend the educational sessions each week for 12months |
| Please indicate if your practice/PCN is participating in any other programmes to support PA’s in practice? (please select the appropriate boxes)  The practice/PCN support PA Students  The practice/PCN Clinical Supervisor is accessing support from Our-Path (<https://our-path.co.uk/>)  The PCN is participating in the Action Learning Set (ALS) offer to support ARRS  *If you would like more information on any of these initiatives please contact your local training hub or* [*ecccg.cheshiretraininghub@nhs.net*](mailto:ecccg.cheshiretraininghub@nhs.net) |
| Please tick this box to confirm you are happy for us to hold and use these contact details within the Training Hub to allow us to coordinate the required training, networking and evaluation. |
| Please add any additional comments to your EOI below |

1. https://www.cmthub.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Supervision-for-roles-recruited-through-ARRS-NHSEI-Feb-2021-2.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-1)