

Case Study **Physician Associate** in Primary Care

Produced by NHS England

Hazelwood Group Practice in the West Midlands currently has 2 **Physician Associates** working in the team. One has recently joined the team after working in vascular surgery and the other is a Practice Partner.

Mr Chris Deane: The role of the **Physician Associate** Practice Partner

Chris qualified as one of the first UK PAs, sitting the National Examination in 2007. He has been a practice partner for three years.

He was interviewed for the partnership alongside several GPs.

His role includes:

- Open surgery – Chris undertakes the same slots a timescales as GP Colleagues.
- Telephone triage – all patients are called by a GP or **Physician Associate** to review patient’s needs and decide if a face to face appointment is necessary. Chris manages his own list.
- Conducts home visits – GPs and **Physician Associates** meet mid-morning to distribute the home visit schedule between them.
- Chris will write up prescriptions during appointment and uses a ‘special knock’ for GP colleague to sign, any controlled drugs will be discussed and questioned by the GP.
- Writes up x-ray and MRI referrals during appointments and uses ‘special knock’ for GP colleague to sign
- Trained in minor surgery

Their new practice **Physician Associate**:

Responsibilities:

- Primarily deal with minor illnesses with a plan in place to start to develop her to manage more complex cases.
- **The Physician Associate** holds 15 minute appointments with the senior **Physician Associate** and GPs booking into her slots (following their telephone triage processes).
- Trained to fit IUD coils and contraceptive implants.
- Writes up prescriptions during appointments and uses a 'special knock' for GP colleague to sign, any controlled drugs will be discussed and questioned by the GP.
- Writes up X-ray and MRI referrals during appointments and uses a 'special knock' for GP colleague to sign.
- Will seek help from GP colleague for any complex cases (will wait until patient leaves).

For further information on the North West **Physician Associate** Programme please contact

Judith McGregor
Programme Lead
Health Education England

Judith.mcgregor@nw.hee.nhs.uk