

Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTMUHB_78_24

You asked:

I am writing to request information regarding your use of Physician Associates.

- 1) How many Physician Associates are currently employed by your organisation?
- 2) Please provide copies of any policies regarding physician associates in your organisation. For example, policies regarding the scope of practice, clinical procedures, governance, supervision and appraisal processes for physician associates.
- 3) Please provide details of any patient safety incidents (reported via Datix or other internal patient safety reporting systems) where the clinician involved was a Physician Associate. Where possible, please include a breakdown of these incidents by year, severity and categorisation (e.g., department, nature of the incident, patient harm, outcome, organisational response etc).

Our response:

I confirm the answers to your questions are as follows:

- 1/ We currently employ 13 PAs across the organisation. 11 in secondary care and 2 in primary care.
- 2/ In terms of the governance and scope of practice for PAs we use the All Wales Physician Governance Framework heiw.nhs.wales/files/weds-designing-and-redesigning-physician-framework/all-wales-physician-associate-governance-framework/, and follow the Faculty of Physician Associates guidelines [Faculty of Physician Associates - quality health care across the NHS \(fparcp.co.uk\)](http://FacultyofPhysicianAssociates-qualityhealthcare.acrosstheNHS/fparcp.co.uk). We are currently reviewing our own internal PA Governance Framework alongside developing a Governance, Assurance and Recruitment Group.
- 3/ There have been no serious clinical incidents / errors identified involving any of our Physician Associates. If this were to occur then they would be investigated as per our usual clinical reviews with learning shared and action/escalation as appropriate.