

PHYSICIAN ASSOCIATE (PA)

Physician Associates are healthcare professionals who have a scientific Degree along with a PA Masters or Diploma.

PAs are relatively new to General Practice but can deal with a wide range of conditions. They are independent clinicians who work under the supervision of doctors. They are trained to perform a number of day-to-day tasks, including:

- ✓ Taking medical histories from patients
- ✓ Performing physical examinations
- ✓ Diagnosing illnesses
- ✓ Seeing patients with long-term chronic conditions
- ✓ Analysing test results
- ✓ Develop management plans
- ✓ Provide health promotion and disease prevention advice

Currently, PAs are not independent prescribers, however, they are trained to recognise which treatment is suitable for certain conditions. They are able to generate a prescription which is then approved by a doctor.

PHARMACIST

Pharmacists are starting to work in General Practice to assist with the workload, particularly regarding managing medication.

They can conduct reviews such as:

- ✓ Annually for patients who are on long term medication
- ✓ Structured medication reviews for patients who are on a number of medications
- ✓ New medication started in secondary care
- ✓ Issues or queries patients may have with medication, e.g. side effects
- ✓ Hypertension (high blood pressure) clinics where they are able to adjust medication

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Laurel House Surgery

PATIENT INFORMATION LEAFLET

Introducing Our Allied Healthcare Team (AHT)



As well as doctors, we also have a team of Allied Healthcare Professionals. This team is made up of a group of highly qualified clinicians who deliver high quality care to patients with a wide variety of conditions.

We have developed this team to compliment and assist our doctors due to the increasing demand for appointments.

This leaflet explains their individual roles to assist you to get to know to responsibilities of our growing and diverse team.

Our receptionists are trained to signpost patients to the most appropriate clinician so please be advised by them.

Acute Conditions

Acute conditions are of sudden onset; this could be a sore throat, chest infection, etc.

Chronic Conditions

Chronic conditions are illnesses that are ongoing and require regular monitoring and treatment, for example diabetes, asthma, etc.

ADVANCED NURSE PRACTITIONER (ANP)

Advanced Nurse Practitioners are nurses who have undertaken a Masters level in clinical practice. They are able to take a patient's history, perform a physical examination, assess, diagnose, manage and treat patients with acute illnesses. ANPs are also independent prescribers meaning they can give you a prescription, where necessary.

ANPs can also refer for further investigations such as x-ray, scans as well as referring to secondary care.

ANPs also do home visits.

PARAMEDIC

A Paramedic has a degree in Paramedic Science. They are a generalist clinician who are able to triage, diagnose and manage patients with a variety of acute illnesses. Some Paramedics are also independent prescribers who can issue prescriptions.

Like ANPs, Paramedics can refer for further investigations and can also carry out home visits.

EXAMPLES OF THE TYPE OF ILLNESS AN ADVANCED NURSE PRACTITIONER OR PARAMEDIC CAN DEAL WITH:

- ✓ Coughs, colds and sore throats
- ✓ Chest infections
- ✓ Ear infections
- ✓ Acne
- ✓ Period pains/problems
- ✓ Rashes
- ✓ Skin conditions
- ✓ Water infections
- ✓ Piles
- ✓ Allergies
- ✓ Diarrhoea and vomiting
- ✓ Conjunctivitis
- ✓ Mental health – stress and anxiety
- ✓ Pain
- ✓ Conjunctivitis

FIRST CONTACT PHYSIOTHERAPIST (FCP)

Patients can be booked directly with an FCP for musculo-skeletal pain such as pain in your back, neck, shoulder, knee, etc. They can treat conditions, give exercises to do at home, book follow-up appointments and advise on pain control.