

Hannah Evans



I am a Physician Associate (PA) working in Emergency Medicine (EM) at the Wrexham Maelor Hospital. I qualified as a PA in 2019, with a MSc from Bangor University. It is great to be working in the same hospital where I trained.

A PA is a healthcare professional with generalist medical training. PAs work alongside doctors and other healthcare professionals as part of the multidisciplinary team, providing patient care.

Before hearing about the PA role, I had completed a BSc (Hons) in Anatomy at the University of Manchester. I also had some experience working as a healthcare support worker in Ophthalmology and across both medical and surgical specialities.

From my previous experiences in the NHS I knew that I wanted to work in a clinical patient-facing role, but I was not completely sure as to what career path to take. I had contemplated

studying Medicine and Nursing- but decided that I did not want to move away to study and I wanted my career to be flexible and accommodating for this. For me becoming a PA was a great opportunity, which enabled me to live, study and work in North Wales once qualified.

In order to practice, PAs must sit both a written and practical OSCE national examination held by the Royal College of Physicians. PAs must also hold voluntary registration with the Faculty of Physician Associates, as an interim measure until professional statutory regulation is established by the General Medical Council (GMC).

Currently, I am the only PA working in EM in North Wales. This is something I am keen to change, by pioneering the role and demonstrating first-hand how PAs can enhance skill mix and ultimately thrive within the emergency department.

PAs work within a defined scope of practice and within the limits of their competence. In my role, I assess, treat and refer onwards a wide range of patient presentations with varying clinical acuities. When required, there is support from senior colleagues to assist in the delivery of patient care. I am an advanced life support provider, and I am developing my competence at using point of care ultrasound to perform anaesthetic nerve blocks for patients with hip fractures. I also act as a mentor for PA students throughout their time on clinical placements.

Working in the emergency department can at times be a challenging and stressful environment. Working throughout the pandemic and at a time within the NHS where everyone and everything is stretched, I feel so grateful for the support of my colleagues. I feel that my role is valued, supplementing both medical and nursing teams.

In the future I hope that PAs become integral to the multidisciplinary team, embedded throughout multiple specialties. I am passionate about championing the role and driving this forward in North Wales.

I am happy to help answer any questions you have about Physician Associates via email at: hannah.evans2bd873@wales.nhs.uk