

## PHYSICIAN ASSOCIATE CASE STUDIES – PRIMARY CARE

### **Soumya Elizabeth Sunny, PA, Haxby Group Hull**

Being one of the first qualified Physician Associates to work in Hull, I wondered how people would react to this new role, especially as no one had come across this title before, let alone know what we could contribute. The warm reception from patient and staff alike was pleasing to see as they became more aware of our role.

We come from a science background, with a BSc degree usually for a duration of 3 years, following which a 2 year MSc is completed. During our training, we rotate around different specialities including paediatrics, surgery, and acute medicine to name a few. This exposure, combined with our transferable skills we acquired in academic life equipped us to complement the MDT to provide patient centred care. We are currently awaiting statutory regulation, with which the GMC is currently involved with. We are not prescribers, but can complete all aspects of patient care in collaboration with a doctor.

Not being able to prescribe has not caused any issue in my clinical practice thus far, as I find that patients are often happy to wait and they also get a sense of satisfaction knowing that their case has been discussed by two clinicians during debrief, ensuring that we are able to continue to provide holistic, patient centred care.

Physician Associates are able to provide continuity in our care, be it ward or general practice. The immense trust and patient relationship that we are able to develop is hugely gratifying and fuels my ambition to succeed in my career.

### **Beth Walton, PA, General Practice, Haxby, Hull**

Physician Associates are a fairly new healthcare professional. They are trained to the medical model and are considered generalists, as they have a broad knowledge of medicine but don't specialise in a particular area like doctors might do. They can be found working across a wide range of services including GP practices, urgent care centres and hospital departments.

The introduction of this role allows for quicker and easier access to healthcare for patients, as well as reducing the workload for doctors and the wider multidisciplinary team. Physician Associates can manage patients presenting on the day with acute illness, as well as deal with chronic health conditions.

I love that I am able to build a relationship with patients that I may see over a long period of time. General practice is fast paced and can be stressful at times, but it is extremely rewarding. I work with a fantastic team and feel that I contribute my own set of skills.

