



# Physician Associates - update for PPG Network February 2024

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# Physician Associates - Recap

## PPG Network meeting September 2023


- This item was introduced by Cassie Williams, CEO Haringey GP Federation and NHS North Central London ICB PA Ambassador Chaima Hales. Caroline Gillett, Head of Primary Care – Haringey Development and Population Health Directorate NHS North Central London ICB gave the presentation.
- PPG members reported good experiences of Physician Associates in their surgeries and there were several questions also raised about supervision and prescribing.



# Physician Associates – Healthwatch actions

**Healthwatch Haringey met with the Healthwatch England Policy Team and four of the five North Central London Healthwatch last week.**

## **Issues raised in the discussions included**

1. The 'Order' to regulate PAs via the General medical Council (GMC) is not primary legislation, so it doesn't require the full process of parliamentary scrutiny. It is now going to the House of Lords.
  2. Regulation for PAs – GMC or Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC). The HCPC regulates 15 healthcare professionals including chiropodists / podiatrists, clinical scientists, dieticians, paramedics, physiotherapists, radiographers. The GMC regulates doctors.
  3. Healthwatch England is keen to have patient feedback.
  4. HWE believes there is a knowledge gap and most of the public do not know what PAs are and how they differ from doctors.
  5. HWE wants to be able to inform the GMC's regulatory process and make sure patients are informed. Would like to see reviews in place once the regulation has been adopted.
  6. HWE is interested in knowing what happens at triage – do receptionists say you are seeing a PA?
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# Physician Associates – In the news

## **Physician Associate role on NHS website**

<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/medical-associate-professions/roles-medical-associate-professions/physician-associate>

## **Guardian report on BMA survey on Physician Associates, 2 Feb 2024**

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2024/feb/02/physician-associates-make-job-harder-not-easier-say-thousands-of-nhs-medics>

