

Reference:	FOI.3850.20
Subject:	Anaesthesia Associate role
Date of Request:	24 August 2020

Requested:

The nature of my request relates to the implementation and incorporation of the Anaesthesia Associate (AA) role (previously known as Physician Assistant in Anaesthesia or PA-A). I have detailed below the information sought:

1. Do you employ AAs in the operating theatres?
 - a. How many qualified/trainees?
 - b. Working in which specific specialities/workstreams?
2. Which is the predominant model of staffing regarding AAs in the operating theatre? Is it:
 - a. One AA per theatre, with one consultant Anaesthetist?
 - b. Two AAs per two theatres, with on consultant Anaesthetist covering both areas?
 - c. One AA per two theatres, each with own consultant Anaesthetist?
 - d. Other – please explain.
3. Please briefly explain how the AA staffing model(s) works for the department.
4. Have you monitored aspects relating to the implementation and consolidation of the AA role? If so, how? And would you be able to share audit results?
5. Which roles/functions, if any, do AAs take on outside of the operating theatres in your institution?

Response:

1. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) confirms Anaesthesia Associates (AAs) are employed in its operating theatres.
 - a. The UHB confirms it employs eight (8) qualified AAs.
 - b. The UHB confirms the AAs work across all areas of the theatre department.
2. The UHB confirms there are two (2) AAs per two theatres, with one consultant Anaesthetist covering both areas.
3. The UHB confirms as answered above, allocation is undertaken across the two (2) theatre complexes.
4. The UHB confirms that no evaluation of the AA role has been undertaken.
5. The UHB confirms the AAs assist partially with the provision of Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter (PICC) line services. In addition, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the AAs supported venepuncture and cannulation training across the UHB.