

Reference:	FOI.15013.24
Subject:	Physician Associates (PAs) in Paediatrics
Date of Request:	6 August 2024

Requested:

1. Do Physician Associates cover shifts on the paediatric medical rota (sometimes called the "Tier 1" or "first tier" rota)? If yes, please provide the number of shifts covered by PAs over the last four months.
2. Please provide a current job plan/timetable/rota for Physician Associates working in your paediatrics department (anonymised, with personal data removed)
3. Please list the current clinical procedures and activities performed by Physician Associates working in your paediatric department.
4. Please provide any local governance documents, SOPs or scope of practice documents related to Physician Associates working in your paediatric department.

Response:

1. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) confirms that within its Paediatrics Department, a PA is a supplementary resource whose activity is recorded on the Tier 1 rota for administrative processes only. PAs do not replace/substitute for a medical workforce absence. However, on occasion, a PA may become operational should it be required.
2. The UHB confirms that PAs work three days a week/alternate weeks, working an additional shift during the month to make up the full-time contracted hours of 37.5 per week. An example of the rota is provided below:

Week 1 (including breaks)				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:00-21:30	9:00-21:30	09:00-21:30		

Week 2 (Including breaks)				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		09:00-21:30	09:00-21:30	09:00-21:30

3. The UHB confirms that the clinical procedures in Paediatrics performed by PAs include cannulation, phlebotomy, Arterial Blood Gas (ABGs), cultures, lumbar punctures and placement of nasogastric tubes. Additionally, PAs provide support for medical emergency cases including resuscitation, communication with wider multidisciplinary teams (MDT) to support the management of patient care and supporting the Emergency Department team as appropriate.
4. The UHB provides a copy of its Paediatric Scope of Practice (SOP), at Attachment 1.