

## Vascular Society of Great Britain and Ireland

---

# Medical Associate Professionals (MAPs) 'The Extended Surgical Team'

---

The Vascular Society is committed to the delivery of excellence in patient centred care. The Elected Council recognises the significant challenges vascular services currently face; medical staff recruitment and retention; staff burnout; historically high waiting lists; and increasing demand from an aging population with complex disease.

[Provision of Services for People with Vascular Disease 2021](#) states the view of the Vascular Society that there should be one vascular surgeon per 100,000 head of population. The Society remains committed to achieving this through improved recruitment and retention of both vascular trainees and existing consultants.

Medical Associate Professions (MAP) roles have been identified as part of the solution to workforce issues outlined in the NHS People Plan. MAPs are trained to perform certain roles normally performed by doctors. As a Council we recognise and value their contribution of Physicians Associates and Surgical Care Practitioners to patient care. They can support both consultants and trainees in managing their workload. Patient safety must be guaranteed by the definition of scope of practice, statutory registration and regulation, regular peer review and fitness to practice mechanisms.

The Vascular Society is of the view that the valuable contribution MAPs make to patient care should be complimentary to that delivered by vascular specialists rather than replacing it.

The Society will take a full and active part in the setting of standards for scope of practice, training, assessment and career progression for MAPs within vascular multi-disciplinary teams (MDTs). We will engage with MAPs, vascular trainees, SAS and locally employed doctors, Allied Healthcare Professionals, Faculty of Physician Associates (FoPA), and the four Surgical Royal Colleges, through the Extended Surgical Team Board, to develop MAP roles whilst ensuring that other staff groups within the vascular MDT, specifically vascular trainees, are not adversely affected.

As first steps, Ansy Egun (representing the Vascular Society) and Bridget Egan (representing RCSI Dublin) will join the intercollegiate working group on extended practice. Andrew Garnham will raise through the Federation of Surgical Speciality Associations and the Royal Surgical Colleges. Ciaran McDonnell will be writing to engage with colleagues who work with PAs and PAs in vascular surgery roles.

The contribution of MAPs will be included in future VS workforce planning and surveys.

Andy Garnham, President

Bridget Egan, Elected Council Member

Marcus Brooks, Honorary Secretary

Ciaran McDonnell, Chair Workforce Committee

On behalf of the Elected Council of the Vascular Society

18<sup>th</sup> December 2023

## Background

There are three professions termed Medical Associate Professionals (MAPs) in the UK:

- Physician Associates (PAs)
- Anaesthesia Associates (AAs)
- Surgical Care Practitioners (SCPs)

The Faculty of Physician Associates (FoPA) requires Physician Associate students who have completed a PA programme to take the Physician Associate National Examination (PANE). On successful completion of the PANE, providing they are a member of the FoPA, a candidate can then be registered on the Physician Associate Managed Voluntary Register (PAMVR).

The PAMVR launched in 2011. The Government plans that PAs will be regulated with statutory registration with the GMC from 2024.

Once regulation is in place, the GMC will ensure that PAs remain up-to-date and fit to practice through a process of revalidation.

SCPs roles can only be taken up by people who are already registered healthcare professionals, typically a nursing or operating department practitioner background.

SCPs are currently regulated by the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) or Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC).

The onus for the supervision and training of qualified MAPs (as the 'named senior doctor') falls on consultants. PAs are required to complete 50 hours of CPD per year.

No salary scale has been agreed for PAs in Ireland. In the UK, pay for PAs is on the Agenda for Change (AFC) Pay Scale, typically starting on band 7.

Both PAs and SCPs can work independently under the supervision of a named senior doctor.

PAs cannot prescribe, though may gain extended prescribing responsibilities, nor can they request ionising radiation (i.e. plain x-rays or CT scans).

MAPs working for NHS trust are covered by the DHSC clinical negligence scheme for trusts.

The Department of Health and Social Care has set out plans on how it will grow the number of PAs to 10,000 by 2036/37 from 1,508 FTE PAs working in secondary care and 1,707 PAs working in primary care.