

A PA Programme for the UK Context: Countdown to the UK's First Substantial PA Programme in January 2008
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US Physician Assistants have been working in the UK for some years now and have proved their value to such an extent that there is pressure both centrally and at the grassroots of health care for UK training and the development of a 'home grown' Physician Assistant model. This paper will outline both national and local developments regarding UK Physician Assistants: discussing the national competence and curriculum framework in the context of workforce modernisation and as a basis for common standards and professional recognition. It will go on to stress the advantages of local curricular variation and the need for a national assessment of knowledge and skills, before outlining the programme proposed by Birmingham Medical School and the influence on it of existing resources, other programmes and local needs. The presentation will finish with a brief outline of the challenges ahead, both for individual professionals (e.g. gaining acceptance in the multiprofessional team) and the profession as a whole (e.g. gaining registered status and prescribing rights)

References: The Competence and Curriculum Framework for the Physician Assistant
http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4139317 Accessed June 18th 2007 Matrix specification of Core Clinical Conditions for the Physician Assistant by category of level of competence
http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4139318 Accessed June 18th 2007

Target Audience: All