

If you have any questions, please ask during your consultation

## Our Physician Associates and Paramedics working at The Limes

### PHYSICIAN ASSOCIATES

Lucy Simpson

Charlotte O'Connor

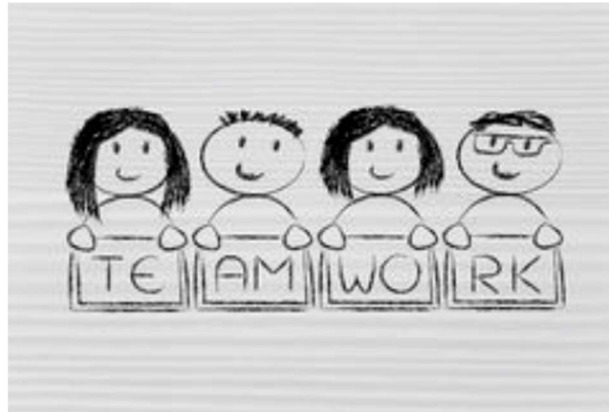
### PARAMEDICS

Laura Parkinson

Felicity Fowler

For further information about Physician Associates, visit the Faculty of Physician Associates  
[www.rcplondon.ac.uk/physician-associates](http://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/physician-associates)

For information about a similar Primary Care Paramedic role:  
[https://collegeofparamedics.co.uk//COP/BecomeAParamedic/Roles in Paramedicine Profiles/Caroline French](https://collegeofparamedics.co.uk//COP/BecomeAParamedic/Roles%20in%20Paramedicine/Profiles/Caroline%20French)



## Physician Associates & Paramedics in General Practice



## What do our Physician Associates and Paramedics do?

Physician associates (PAs) & Paramedics are trained healthcare professionals, who work alongside doctors and other members of the practice team to provide a range of patient care.

They are able to:

- Take medical histories from patients
- Carry out physical examinations
- See patients for on the day or scheduled appointments
- Manage and treat patients, including arranging prescriptions and make referrals
- Visit patients at home, nursing or residential homes
- Review and act on laboratory results
- Run specialist clinics such as family planning, baby checks, long term conditions or minor ops - with extra training
- Teach and supervise students
- Provide patient health promotion and disease prevention advice
- Help GPs with administration tasks

They are trained and qualified to run their own clinical appointments but always work under the close supervision of a GP who they can liaise with during your appointment or at the end of their surgery, as needed.

## Why do we need Physician Associates and Paramedics?

We have seen a huge increase in demand for appointments since 2019. There are many reasons for this including an aging population, increased respiratory infections after coming out of lockdown, an increase in mental health problems and increased anxiety about physical health problems following the Covid pandemic, less routine follow up by the hospitals and those patients waiting for delayed treatment in the hospitals who are struggling will often contact the practice.

At the same time there are less newly trained GP's who want to work in traditional General Practice. It has taken over 9 months to find a replacement following Dr Moltu's retirement.

As a result we have had to think differently about how we can try and meet the demand. By employing 2 Physician Associates and 2 Paramedics we hope to provide a team, closely supervised by one of our Senior GP's, that can provide care for those who need "on-the-day" access. This "on-the-day" service will be delivered in the new extension. This will then free up the rest of the GP's and GP Registrars to provide pre-bookable sessions, increasing our pre-bookable capacity.

## Qualifications

### PHYSICIAN ASSOCIATES

PAs must pass an intensive 2 -year university course at diploma or masters level to learn clinical knowledge and skills **after** completing a 3 year biomedical or healthcare related degree.

They train in hospital and GP practices to gain knowledge, skills and experience about how to look after patients.

The Faculty of Physician Associates is part of the Royal College of Physicians. They set and run the PA national exam, check the education standards and maintain a register of qualified PAs. PAs are required to show that they are keeping their knowledge and skills up to date and have to recertify every 6 years.

### PARAMEDICS

Paramedics must pass a minimum 2 year foundation degree. Many will complete a 3 year Bachelor of Science degree in Paramedic Practice. A mixture of on the job training and placements as well as classroom based learning at university trains them in a variety of medical conditions that are both long and short term.

Paramedics are required to be registered with the Health and Care Professions Council. They are required to complete revalidation every 2 years and must continue to complete regular continuing professional development in order to maintain their skills and understanding.