

Freedom of Information Request – 4289

Following the publication of the Leng Review in July 2025, please provide the following information in relation to Physician Associates (PAs) working within the Trust's Emergency Department.

If the Trust does not employ PAs or does not operate an Emergency Department, please confirm this by return email.

1. Have any changes been made to the scope of practice of Physician Associates working in the Emergency Department since July 2025?

No

a. If yes, please describe the nature of these changes.

If yes, please indicate the date(s) on which any such changes were implemented.

(Initially following the Leng Review (from 18th July 2025), this change in process was instituted:

Emergency Department Physician Associates:

- *Can see any patient that has undergone clinician led RAT assessment in adult majors or minors*
- *Can see any patient that has been triaged by the ED triage nurse as 'injury not requiring RATS' as these patients are differentiated minor injuries*
- *Can work in paediatric ED if directly under consultant supervision as all have undergone nurse led triage and patients are essentially seen in tandem with the consultant*
- *Must discuss every patient they see with the ED consultant for diagnosis and management advice*

Once NHSE has softened its stance on the requirement for "immediate action" following the Leng review, from 19th September 2025 we reverted back to the pre-Leng process i.e.

Physician Associates (PAs) working in the Emergency Department undertake clinical activities appropriate to their role and competence. This includes assessing patients, obtaining clinical histories, performing physical examinations, formulating differential diagnoses, initiating investigations, and implementing management plans. All clinical activities are undertaken under the supervision of an Emergency Department Consultant. Patients assessed by Physician Associates are reviewed by, or discussed with, a supervising Emergency Department Consultant, and Physician Associates work only when appropriate senior medical supervision is present within the Emergency Department i.e., an ED Consultant).

2. Have any PAs, working in the Emergency Department, been re - deployed since July 2025? If yes, what percentage?

No

3. Have any PAs, working in the Emergency Department, left the trust since July 2025? If yes, has the role been re-filled by another PA hire?

No

- 4. Please provide copies of any updated policies, guidelines, or standard operating procedures relating to the scope of practice of PAs in the Emergency Department.**

There are no such updated policies, guidelines, or SOPs.