

23rd of October 2023

Statement in response to the expansion of Physicians Associates in surgery

The Association of Surgeons in Training (ASiT) issue this statement in response to the proposed expansion of Physicians Associates (PAs).

Following the release of recent NHS long term workforce plan there has been increased discussion surrounding the role of PAs. Of note are the recent [resolutions](#) passed by the Royal College of Anaesthetists regarding Anaesthesia Associates. **Serious concerns have been raised about the impact an unregulated expansion of PAs might have on surgical training. We have summarised below the key concerns raised:**

1. **Unclear scope of practice and responsibilities,**
2. **Impact on current surgical training and access to training opportunities,**
3. **Lack of regulation and an appropriate body to regulate PAs.**

The aim of the association is to promote the highest standards of training for surgical trainees.

Surgical training in the United Kingdom has faced significant [challenges](#) especially in recent years. We advocate for the access and delivery of high-quality training to all surgical trainees in line with the robust [Quality Indicators established by the JCST](#).

ASiT have released a snapshot survey to surgical trainees, foundation doctors and locally employed doctors working in surgery to better understand the scope of PAs in their trust as well as impact on surgical care and training.

We will always promote multi-disciplinary team-working with clearly defined roles, regulation, and patient education. By working closely with key healthcare and surgical stakeholders, we hope to effect positive change for trainees and the future workforce.