

Mentorship

Mentorship is increasingly recognised as a bidirectional process benefiting both mentors and mentees¹

The GMC have drafted the interim standards for physician associates and anaesthesia associates. Whilst not yet in effect it can be postulated that these principles will be adhered to when regulation is announced (in 2023). In relationship to mentorship, the GMC states that

“You should be willing to take on a mentoring role for new or more junior physician associates/anaesthesia associates and other healthcare professionals²”

Local professional support can best be provided through a senior PA in the locality acting as a Mentor for the PA preceptee. There are a variety of definitions of a mentor. Essentially the role is an experienced guide who will usually have professional connections to the PA Faculty locally (University) and nationally with the ability to guide the new PA on professional matters. This is usually a more long-term relationship than the specific role of the clinical supervisor during the preceptorship year. The mentor will provide pastoral and professional support outside the clinical relationship.

The mentor could be

- A local PA ambassador
- Someone within the faculty
- A Senior PA who works outside your practice/ area of work

The mentor needs to be available for support, exact arrangements can be defined in local areas.

References

1. Burgess, A., van Diggele, C. and Mellis, C., 2018. Mentorship in the health professions: a review. *The Clinical Teacher*, 15(3), pp.197-202.
2. Gmc-uk.org. 2022. [online] Available at: <https://www.gmc-uk.org/-/media/documents/good-medical-practice-for-maps-guidance-english_pdf-87860193.pdf> [Accessed 28 January 2022]