

**Physician associates – Member webinar  
13 November 2023**

Thank you to everyone who attended this webinar to discuss the possible role of physician associate (PA) within the ophthalmology workforce. We have captured the following action points:

- The College agrees with the BMA statement of 16 November that there should be no recruitment to the position of PA in Ophthalmology until the recommendations of the pilot are published.
- We are grateful that several of the attendees at the webinar will be part of the working group writing the recommendations after the pilot concludes
- The OTG will continue to actively survey trainees during the pilot to monitor if there is any effect of the PA role on training within the pilot units.
- The RCOPhth agrees that it should be a trainees choice if they wish to supervise a PA in Ophthalmology.
- The College agrees with the GMC that no doctor should be ordering investigations or signing prescriptions on behalf of a colleague and should follow appropriate guidelines in accordance with ordering investigations and prescribing.
- The RCOPhth affirms that a scope of work for PA in Ophthalmology will not include intra ocular surgery
- We will recommend that patients under the care of NHS ophthalmology services should have a named consultant who is responsible for ensuring that their healthcare is delivered safely. PAs, nurse specialists, hospital optometrists, orthoptists, imaging technicians and other AHPs should all have access to a named consultant for each patient to raise issues with, particularly when there are matters relating to safe patient care.
- We will have a further webinar to review progress of the pilot.