

FAQs to support - Introduction of GP Assistant (GPA) role in the ARRS Scheme

NHSE have since provided further FAQs (below) to support implementation of the GPA role, and have asked to direct any general queries on the inclusion of the GPA role in the ARRS scheme to: england.primarycareworkforce@nhs.net

- 1. Where should we direct queries about the inclusion of the GPA role in the additional roles scheme?**

Please direct all queries to england.primarycareworkforce@nhs.net

- 2. Where should we direct staff members who would like to take up the accredited national GPA training offer?**

Please direct them to transformation@hee.nhs.uk

- 3. Can I receive ARRS funding from Oct onwards for a GPA who is currently studying on the accredited programme?**

Yes. GPAs were not included in PCN baselines. As such, PCNs are able to employ GPNs, and claim reimbursement for their salaries as with any other additional role, if staff meet the requirements outlined in the Network Contract DES.

- 4. Once the GPA has completed training and moves from Trainee GPA to GPA, are they still eligible for funding?**

Yes

- 5. Is back dated funding available for a GPA who has already passed the accredited programme and hired into the role?**

No, PCNs can only claim reimbursement for GPA salaries from the point at which the role is introduced in the Network Contract DES. It is not possible to claim funding for back dated salaries prior to that date.

- 6. Is there a cap on numbers for Trainee GPAs?**

No, recruitment is not capped.

- 7. Can non-accredited GPAs move between practices?**

Yes, hiring decisions are made by individual PCNs, which hold responsibility for ensuring that staff meet the requirements of the DES.

- 8. Can each practice interpret what the job role will be, or will there be a requirement for them to choose either a non-clinical or 'hybrid' role (clinical and non-clinical)?**

PCNs practices can choose how to deploy staff in this role, within the outlines of the competency framework and role description.

- GPA e-lfh link (includes GPA competency framework): <https://www.e-lfh.org.uk/programmes/general-practice-assistant/>

9. Is there any support offered/monitoring of progress or will this be down to the GP practice? How will learners complete if no evidence has to be submitted?

GPs can choose to take part in the formal accreditation programme. If they do not, they will be expected to develop competencies, under the supervision of a GP, in line with the competency framework.

10. What are the implications on indemnity and public liability insurance and/or arrangements?

GPs will operate under the contract, guidance and supervision of GPs, as with other ARRS roles. GPs hold responsibility for services delivered under their contract.