



Faculty of Physician Associates members

a guide for the newly qualified PA

I'm qualified – what next?

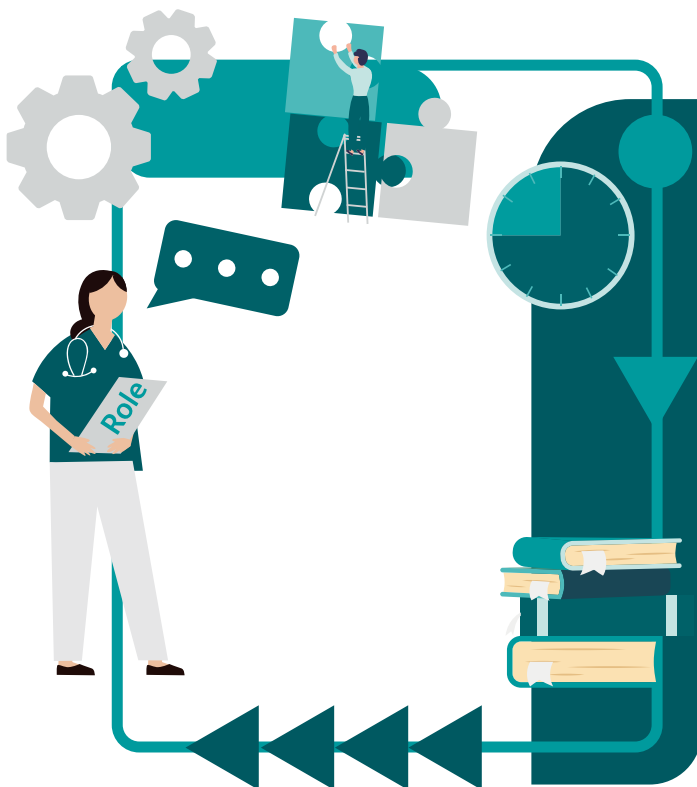
Congratulations – you've done it! All those years of hard work have paid off and you are a fully qualified physician associate!

Welcome to a rapidly growing profession where you'll play an integral part in the multidisciplinary team. You will learn, grow and develop in your practice.

Don't worry if you're feeling anxious or unsure of what to expect, that's normal. We're here to guide and support you as an FPA member – starting with some top tips.

Explore your FPA benefits:

- > **Managed Voluntary Register (MVR)** – confirm your listing on the MVR with your employer. This is the only method they can use to verify that you're a qualified PA. They can also [search](#) for your details.
- > **CPD diary** – we recommend that you become familiar with the app and find a logging routine that suits you; your FPA membership requires you to maintain your CPD record.
- > **FPA toolkit** – use the personal and professional toolkit to aid and support your development. As a member you have access to the buildable format, this means it's even easier to make the toolkit work for you.
- > **Presidents' updates** – a monthly newsletter delivered to your inbox sharing updates from within the profession, CPD, learning opportunities and ways you can get involved. Explore the back catalogue of newsletters inside the members' area too.
- > **Access to inclusive and discounted educational materials** – including RCP Player, an online medical streaming service offering learning resources and events with CPD credits. Subscriptions to *Clinical Medicine and Future Healthcare Journal* with opportunities to showcase your work.





Connect with your employer:

- > **Become familiar** – with your employer's and department's processes and protocols. Don't be afraid to ask questions if you're unsure or have concerns. Your employer will appreciate you being proactive and eager to learn.
- > **Check your professional indemnity cover** – all PAs practising in the UK are required to have indemnity insurance. For those employed in primary and secondary care sectors, you will typically be indemnified through your employer. However, you should discuss this with your employer to understand how far you are covered and whether you need to investigate additional indemnity cover.
- > **Formulate a training plan** – the level of support you require should be discussed and agreed between you and your supervisor. As you progress and develop as a PA, you can look at how you can work more autonomously within your team. You should discuss a plan for your training and development, and you can use our toolkit to help support and record your progression. You can also begin to prepare for your yearly appraisals with your supervisor. The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) also offers a catalogue of [free guidance](#) on a range of conditions.
- > **CPD** – clarify how many hours of protected time you receive for CPD to enable you to plan this into your schedule.

Converse and communicate with:

- > **PA colleagues** – connect with PA colleagues to share experiences, learning and achievements. The FPA is also available to offer insight and support.
- > **The FPA** – you can contact us by email, or call us on 0203 075 1264. Why not join the conversation on social media ([@FPARCP](#)) and

stay up to date with the latest news, resources and developments within your profession? Don't forget, social media is visible and it is important to remain professional. Review the [RCP social media guidelines](#) if you're unsure.

My membership and me:

- > **Register for the CPD diary** – now you're qualified it is important to keep in mind that you will be required to complete 50 hours of CPD each year. CPD helps to maintain and improve your medical practice standards through the development of knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviours. As an FPA member, you have free access to the CPD diary. Here you can record and evidence your learning and reflections. Once qualified, you can choose to start your CPD year straight away or defer and wait till the new CPD year begins. We recommend the latter, giving you a full year to undertake your CPD. Remember to discuss CPD with your supervisor as part of your development and appraisals. More information on CPD, including CPD categories, can be found in the [CPD guidance](#) document.
- > **Update your details** – if you haven't already, it's important to keep your details up to date. Your contact details and your employer's details help us keep in touch and understand more about you as our member and about the landscape of the profession.
- > **Stay connected** – our FPA website offers a range of useful information. From FAQs to announcements, and resources to best practice guidance. It is packed full of information and tools to help you in your day-to-day practice and your personal and professional development. The news section is updated regularly too, so don't miss out.
- > **Get involved** – look out for our newsletters and regularly check our website for opportunities to get involved with your representative body.