

Request under Freedom of Information Act 2000

**Request Ref: NGFOI 19/20: 161**

Thank you for your request for information received at Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust (NGH) on 19/06/2019.

I am pleased to be able to provide you with the following information:

1) *Does the Trust employ physician associates?*

**Yes - there are currently 6 of within Urgent Care, 1 in Oncology and 1 in Haematology.**

2) *If the Trust employs physician associates, please answer the following questions:*

a) *Does your Trust use an electronic prescribing system or paper based drug charts?*

**Electronic prescribing system.**

b) *Are physician associates allowed to propose medications on the electronic system, to be approved by a prescriber?*

**Yes - Physician Associates can propose new medications and enter them onto the draft section of the electronic prescribing system, then request a doctor to check and authorise.**

c) *Are physician associates allowed to transcribe patient medications onto drug charts or electronic prescribing systems, for authorisation by a prescriber?*

**Yes - Physician Associates can transcribe medications by entering them onto the draft section of the electronic prescribing system, then request a doctor to check and authorise.**

d) *Are physician associates allowed to write or sign discharge letters?*

**The Physician Associates write the Clinical Information section (regarding details of the admission) and the Management section of the discharge letter for patients. Physician Associates then request a Doctor to send across the patients medications from the patient's electronic drug chart to the discharge letter. If there are no medication changes and/or the patient has been in hospital less than 24 hours, Physician Associates can write this in the clinical information then complete the letter and discharge the patient.**