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GLOBAL ASSOCIATION OF CLINICAL OFFICERS AND PHYSICIAN ASSOCIATES

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Exciting Development: GMC UK Now Registers Physician Associates Globally – Expanding Opportunities for Clinical Officers and PA Equivalents!

Dear GACOPA Members,

We are delighted to share a groundbreaking milestone in the recognition and registration of Physician Associates (PAs) globally. The **UK General Medical Council (GMC)** has announced new registration pathways for PAs and comparable professionals from additional countries, including Kenya, Ghana, and others, to apply for GMC registration and practice in the UK. This marks a pivotal moment in our shared mission to advance the harmonization of the PA/Clinical Officer profession worldwide.

Why This Matters:

This decision by the GMC is a testament to the growing recognition of the vital role played by PAs, Clinical Officers, and equivalent professionals in global healthcare systems. It also aligns closely with GACOPA and IAPAE's strategic advocacy for **harmonized education, accreditation, and practice standards** for these professions across borders.

The GMC's new registration framework includes:

1. **Qualification Assessment:** Applicants must provide evidence that their PA qualification meets GMC standards, including in-depth coursework, clinical rotations, and supervision criteria.
2. **English Language Proficiency:** Proof of effective communication skills in English, vital for safe and effective practice.



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3. **Registration Assessments:** All applicants must pass the Physician Associate Registration Assessment (PARA), conducted by the Royal College of Physicians.
4. **Recognition of PA Equivalents:** For countries where the PA profession is regulated by law, qualifications will be assessed for parity with UK standards.

Recognized Countries for Registration:

The GMC now recognizes qualifications from the following countries, allowing their PAs and equivalents to apply for registration and practice in the UK:

1. Bangladesh
2. Canada (varies by region)
3. Ghana
4. Iceland
5. Ireland
6. Israel
7. Kenya
8. Liechtenstein
9. Malawi
10. Netherlands
11. Norway
12. South Africa
13. Switzerland
14. USA
15. Zimbabwe

GMC Registration Key Points:

- Registration applications are now open, with qualification assessment fees set at £500.
- English language tests (IELTS/OET) and PARA exams are mandatory for most international applicants.
- A two-year transition period (2024-2026) allows practitioners to meet these requirements while maintaining their current roles.

Global Collaboration and Accreditation:

This development comes as we prepare for the **2025 International Summit** hosted by the American Academy of PAs (AAPA) on **March 21-22, 2025, in Atlanta, Georgia**. This summit will address the feasibility of extending ARC-PA accreditation to international PA programs, opening pathways for graduates to sit for the PANCE exam and earn NCCPA certification.

Call to Action for GACOPA Members:



1. **Apply for GMC Registration:** Eligible members should prepare their documents and apply to the GMC to seize this opportunity.
2. **Engage in Global Advocacy:** Join us in Atlanta for the 2025 International Summit to contribute to discussions on international accreditation and recognition.
3. **Celebrate Progress:** This achievement is a victory for all of us striving to elevate the profession on a global stage.

As we advance toward the 5th GACOPA International Delegates Conference at Aston University, UK, in August 2025, let this serve as a reminder of the profound impact our collaboration is making in shaping the future of healthcare professions.

For more details on the GMC registration process and requirements, visit their official website or refer to the detailed policy documents provided or click the link below <https://www.gmc-uk.org/registration-and-licensing/join-our-registers/registration-applications/register-as-a-physician-associater>

Together, we are building a stronger, unified global voice for Clinical Officers and Physician Associates.

Yours in service,



Austin Oduor Otieno
President of the Association

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GACOPA is a non-profit international association/ organization with the mission to promote global clinical practitioner recognition, regulation and clinical practice to support country healthcare systems to meet their population healthcare needs. <https://www.gacopa.org> / president@gacopa.org / info@gacopa.org +254722302266



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35 Country Practice titles in 68 Countries for our profession²

(**Credit IAPAE – LOOP initiative**)

1. **Asociado Médico (AM)**: Puerto Rico
2. **Assistant Doctor (AD)**: China
3. **Assistant General Practitioner (AGP)**: China
4. **Assistant Medical Officer (AMO)**: Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Malaysia
5. **Attaché de Santé (AS)**: Burkina Faso
6. **Attaché de Santé en Chirurgie (ASC)**: Burkina Faso
7. **Baga Emch: (BE)** Mongolia
8. **Clinical Associate (ClinA)**: Malawi, South Africa
9. **Clinical Health Officer (CHO¹)**: Somaliland
10. **Clinical Officer (CO)**: Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Sierra Leone, Botswana
11. **Community Based Physician Assistant (CBPA)**: Vietnam
12. **Community Health Assistant (CHA)**: Sierra Leone
13. **Community Health Officer (CHO²)**: Nigeria, Sierra Leone
14. **Community Health Scientist (CHS)**: Nigeria
15. **Community Health Technician (CHT¹)**: Sierra Leone
16. **Community Health Technologist (CHT²)** : Nigeria
17. **Doctor Assistant (DA)**: Botswana
18. **Feldsher (FS)**: Bulgaria, Mongolia, Poland, Russia, Ukraine
19. **Health Assistant (HA)**: Nepal, Marshall Islands, Micronesia
20. **Health Extension Officer (HEO)**: Papua New Guinea
21. **Integrated Emergency Surgical Officer (IESO)**: Ethiopia
22. **Medic (ME)**: Myanmar
23. **Medical Assistant (MA)**: Bangladesh, Fiji, Malawi, Malaysia, Marshall Islands, Micronesia
24. **Medical Associate (MAss)**: Lao People's Democratic Republic
25. **Medical Clinical Officer (MCO)**: Uganda
26. **Medical Extension Officer/Medex (MEO)**: Bolivia, Brazil, Guyana, Marshall Islands, Micronesia
27. **Medical Licentiate (ML)**: Zambia
28. **Physician Assistant (PA)**: Afghanistan, Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, Cambodia, Germany, Ghana, Israel, Liberia, Myanmar, Netherlands, Poland, Saudi Arabia, [PA volunteer in Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti. Stopped in Taiwan. Potential in Japan & Thailand]
29. **Physician Associate (PAss)**: American Samoa, England, Guam, India, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, Northern Mariana Islands, Republic of Ireland, Scotland, Switzerland, U.S. Virgin Islands, United States, Wales



4

30. **Public Health Officer (PHO)**: Ethiopia
31. **Sub-Assistant Community Medical Officer (SACMO)**: Bangladesh
32. **Techniques Paramédicales (TP)**: Burundi
33. **Técnicos de Cirurgia (TC)**: Mozambique
34. **Técnicos de Medicina Geral (TMG)**: Mozambique
35. **Unlicensed Assistant (UA)** : South Korea