



GETTING THAT FIRST PA JOB

Michelle Chapman

PA-R – Acute Medicine

Lead PA – KSS School of PAs

Post Registration Education Workstream Lead - FPA



What we are going to cover

- Choosing a role
- Putting together an application
- Personal statements
- Interviews
- Questions for your potential employer



Choosing a role

- Do you have a passion for a specific area?
- Location and practicalities
- Think about the employer 'fit'
- Development



Applications

- Where to find jobs
 - NHS Jobs
 - Indeed.com
 - PATH mailout
- Some will ask for application form
- Some will ask for CV and covering letter



Applications

**YOUR APPLICATION IS YOUR
TICKET
TO GETTING AN INTERVIEW**

Applications

- Think concise
- Demonstrate knowledge and skills you have developed
- Check, check and triple check!
- Use up to date terminology.... **forget UKAPA**



Personal Statement

- An opportunity to showcase you!!!
- Think no more than one side of A4 typed
-but longer than one short paragraph



Personal Statement

- Why do you want to work in that department?
- Why that employer?
- Why are **you** suitable for the role?
- **How your experience meets the person specification?**



DON'T

**LIST
PLACEMENTS**

**LIST EVERYWHERE
YOU HAVE EVER
WORKED**

**LIST
PROCEDURES**

USE CLICHES

DO

**SKILLS AND
ATTRIBUTES**

**CLINICAL
EXAMPLES**

**DEMONSTRATE
HOW YOU HAVE
GROWN**

**THINK
TRANSFERABLE
SKILLS**



Interviews

Start with the basics

- Get there on time!or even early
- Think about logistics and travel
- Be smart
- Make a good impression from the start

Be polite and
professional from the
get go!



Interviews

- Keep your head
- Think body language
- Pause on occasion to give yourself more time
- **Prepare and practice**



Example questions

Why did you want to be a PA?

Why not a doctor?

Why should we employ a PA?



Why should an organisation employ Physician Associates?

Strengthen and add value to clinical teams

Continuity

Consistency

Skill mix



Why should an organisation employ Physician Associates?

Workforce issues

Although PAs are not a miracle cure

Part of a solution of matching skill mix to demand

Complement the medical team



Some further example questions

What attracts you to this specialty?

Why this organisation?

What can you bring to the team?

Where do you see yourself in 5 years?

Example of clinical questions

- Scenarios
 - What are they asking in this question?
 - Setting the scene
 - What important attributes are they trying to get out of you?



Key concepts

You are aware of your limitations

You are an advocate for the patient

Work around difficulties



Key concepts

**PATIENT SAFETY IS
PARAMOUNT**



What should you ask the employer?

- How are they going to help develop you?
- Training opportunities
- Study budget
- Study days
- How do they envisage you working in their team? **...think oncall rotas, out of hours...**



Take home points

- Think about employer fit
- Supervisor relationship
- Give examples to demonstrate your skills and how you have developed.
- Patient safety is everything – and fundamental to you
- What are they going to do to develop me?



GOOD LUCK!

Supporting the development of Physician Associates
across Kent, Surrey and Sussex



**YOU
GOT
THIS!**

 cardsimple.com

Supporting the development of Physician Associates
across Kent, Surrey and Sussex



Supporting the development of Physician Associates
across Kent, Surrey and Sussex