

# A Modern Team Approach to Orthopaedic Anaesthesia : Physicians' Assistants (Anaesthesia)

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What are Physicians' Assistants (Anaesthesia)?

What contribution can we/do we make to  
orthopaedic anaesthesia?

# The Concept....

- 1997      Audit Commission Report – Explore boundaries in anaesthesia roles
- 2000      Workforce predictions of too few medical anaesthetists
- 2002      Investigation of potential role for non-physician anaesthetist in UK...

# 2002 : Joint Evaluation of Non-Medical Anaesthetist Role in UK



**The Royal College of Anaesthetists**  
Educating, Training and Setting Standards in Anaesthesia,  
Critical Care and Pain Medicine



Driving Factors :            European Working Time Directive  
  Modernising Medical Careers  
  18 week targets  
  Cost efficiencies (?)

“The role of non-medical staff in the delivery of anaesthesia services” October 2002

## The chosen Model : Anaesthesia Practitioners (APs)

- Direct supervision at induction
- Direct supervision at emergence
- Independence during maintenance



# Anaesthesia Practitioner : Phase I Pilot

Heart of England NHS Trust

Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Trust

Hope Hospital Manchester NHS

*Morecombe Bay Hospital NHS Trust*

*Gateshead NHS Trust*



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learning for health  
and social care



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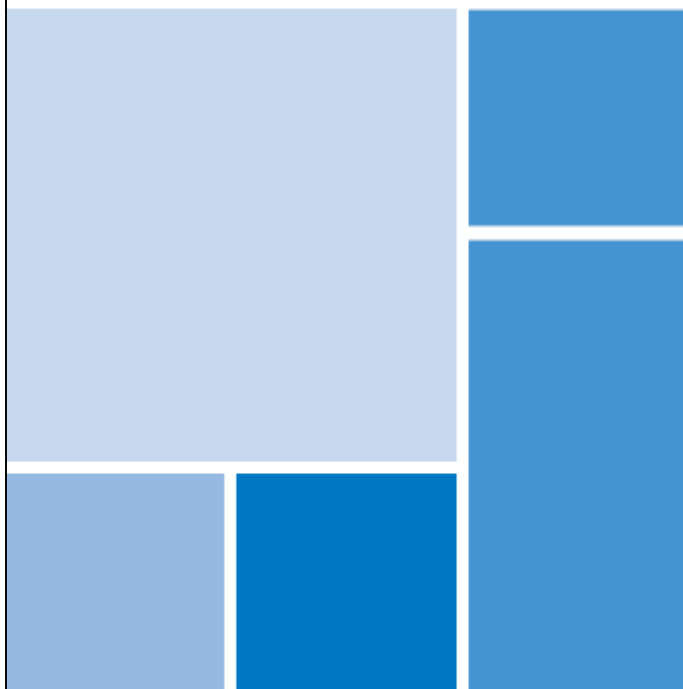
**Modernisation Agency**

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- 2003      **New Ways of Working in Anaesthesia Program (NWWA) born****
- Start of Phase I Pilot...**

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- 2004      Creation of National Curriculum Framework...**



Anaesthesia Practitioner Curriculum Framework – June 2005



This document was developed by representatives from the following organisations:



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 **Modernisation Agency**

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200579 Anaesthesia Practitioner Curriculum Framework – June 2005 may also be made available on request in Braille, on audio-cassette tapes, on disk and in large print

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Start of Phase I Pilot
- 2004      Creation of National Curriculum Framework
- 2005      Start of Phase II Pilot...**

You live in a time when pigs fly....



# Physicians' Assistants (Anaesthesia)

The 'rules':



- Two minutes
- Two Theatres
- Induction and emergence
- Exemptions.....

# Physicians' Assistants (Anaesthesia)

## The 'rules':



1. The RCoA acknowledges that PA(A)s are not yet fully regulated as a professional healthcare specialty with appropriate registration at the Health Professions Council. Therefore, any practice falling outside of the Curriculum cannot be formally recognised by the specialty on a national scale. It is unfortunate this lack of registration prohibits appropriate recognition of these new roles and formal endorsement of each individual department where they are being utilised.
2. Several departments of anaesthesia have developed enhanced PA(A) roles through medically led local training and assessment processes; this is particularly true for the provision of regional anaesthesia. There are now clear examples of appropriately controlled enhanced roles which correctly focus on the maintenance of patient safety first, and improved service provision second. Hospitals employing PA(A)s in enhanced roles related to regional anaesthesia, have also noted the greater service provision they offer has reinforced the position of the anaesthesia department as the hub of expertise for regional anaesthesia across the Trust.
3. We have seen no evidence to suggest these enhanced roles increase risk where the medical (consultant) supervision requirements, as described above, are being met and where the local senior anaesthetists are directly involved in developing the role. Some concerns have been raised that such extended roles may reduce training opportunities for anaesthetists; however, departments involved in this development have ensured this is not the case. It is a critical consideration for this College that extended roles for PA (A)s do not negatively impact on the training of anaesthetists and College Tutors should be involved at all stages of enhanced role development. Such roles should also receive endorsement of the employing hospital/Trust/Board executive who will have responsibility for local indemnity.
4. The RCoA has been advised that, in some institutions, PA(A)s provide sedation for procedures outside of the operating theatre complex. The RCoA considers that the same levels of supervision and monitoring as described in the above statement for general anaesthesia also hold for the supervision of PA(A)s providing sedation with propofol for operative and investigative procedures both within and outside of the theatre complex. Paragraph 9 above also applies for sedation drugs.

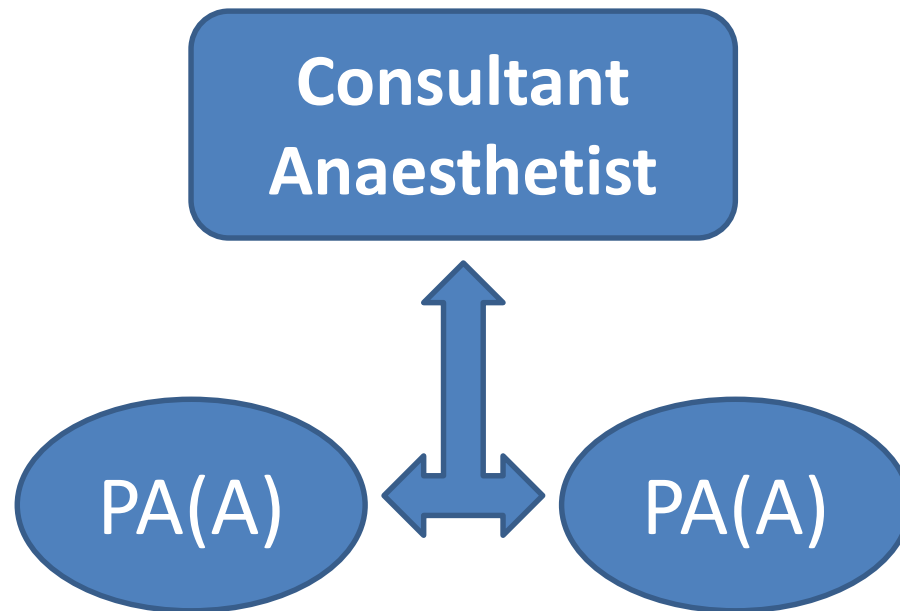
# Physicians' Assistants (Anaesthesia)

The 'rules':



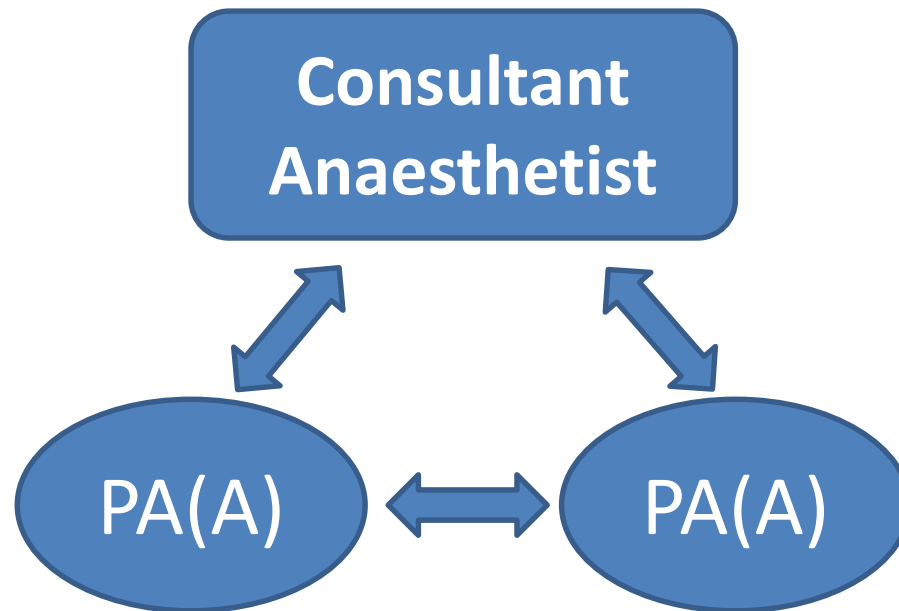
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# The 'HEFT Model'



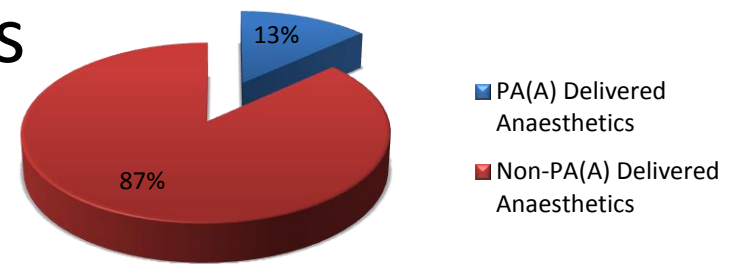


# The 'HEFT Model'

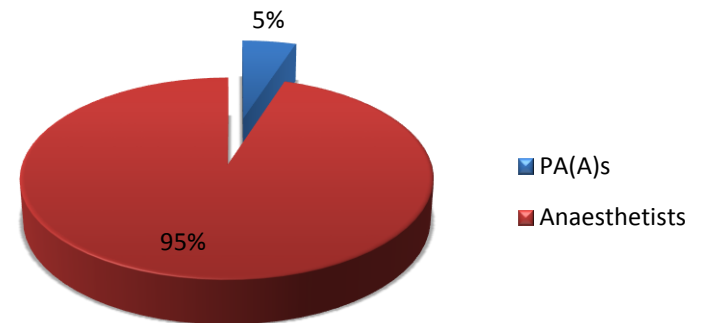


# The 'HEFT Model'

- 33,434 anaesthetics per year
- 4,451 delivered by PA(A)s



- PA(A)s constitute 5% of anaesthetic workforce at HEFT



# What can PA(A)s offer to Orthopaedics?

- Flexible workforce
- Extended/3-session days
- Trauma optimisation and assessment
- **Two-to-one major cases**
- Specific clinical skills

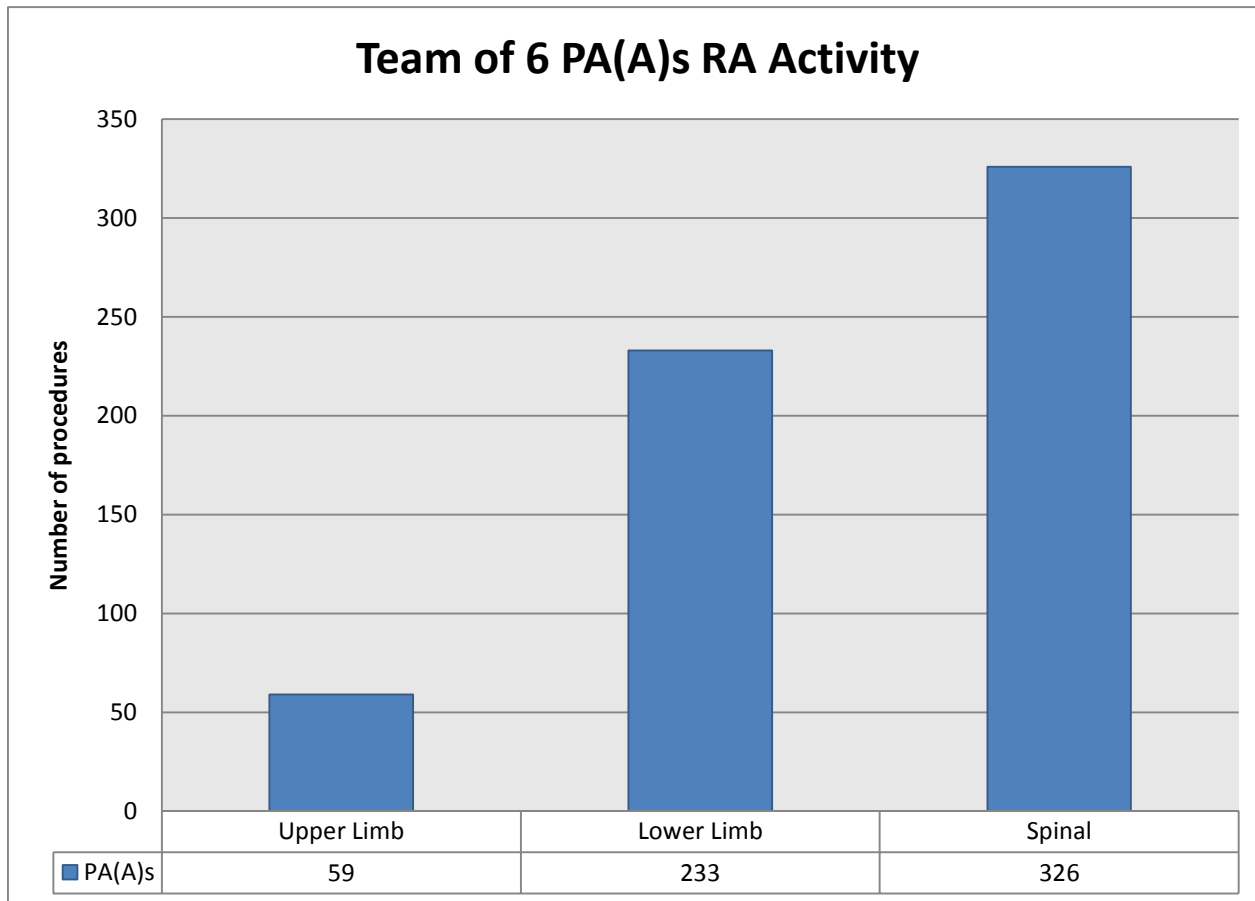
# Frequently asked questions....

# How can this be safe?

- Robust training and assessment
- Audit, evaluation and re-evaluation
- Numbers!

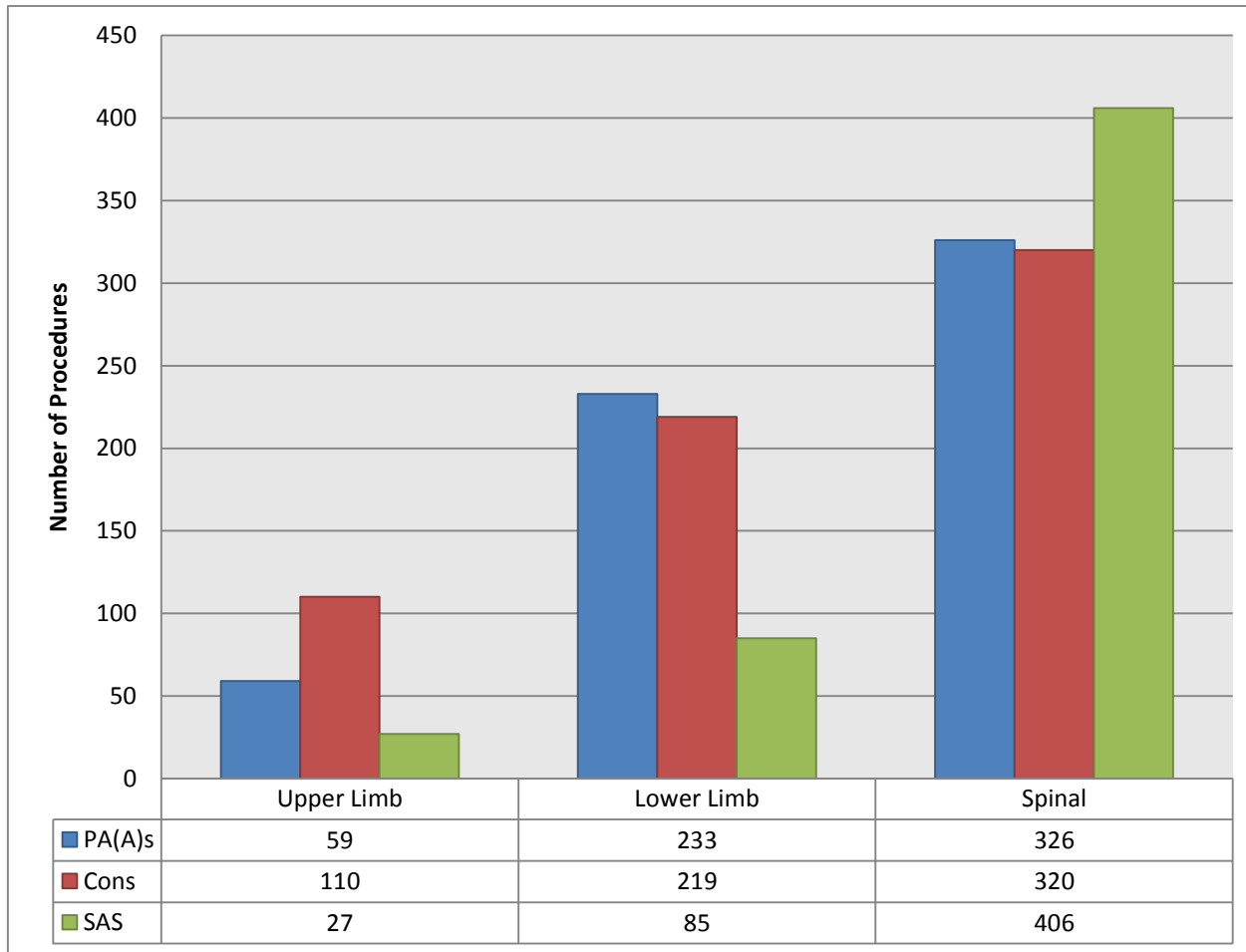
# The numbers.....

January 2014 to June 2015:



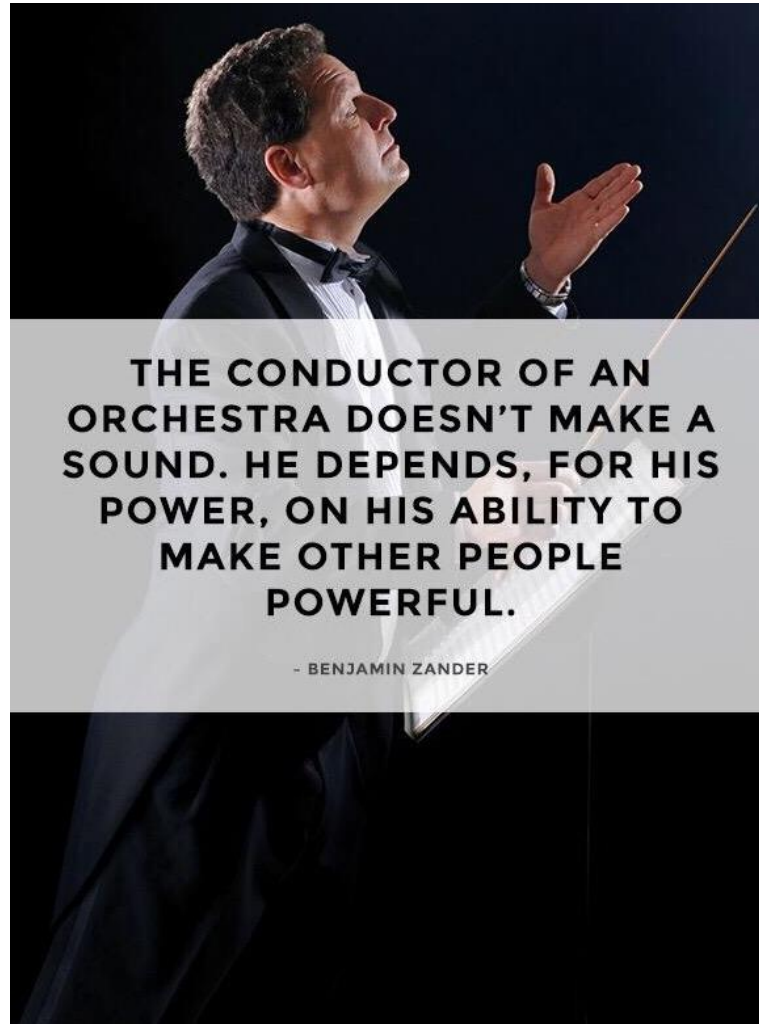
# The numbers.....

January 2014 to June 2015:



# Impact on team members

Anaesthetists:





# Impact on team members

Surgeons:



If it looks like a duck, swims like a duck and quacks like a duck.....it's probably a duck!

# Impact on team members

Surgeons:



If it looks like a duck, swims like a duck and  
quacks like a duck.....it's probably a duck!

(and all the better if it's seen all the patients  
and is ready to start the list early)

# Impact on team members

## Trainee Anaesthetists:

- No impact on training at HEFT
- Ability to learn from PA(A)s
- Advantages for VERY junior anaesthetists
- 'Porridge' lists to enable training

# Impact on team members

PA(A)s:

- Enhanced skill set
- Greater satisfaction
- Flexibility
- Ongoing learning and development
- Teaching ability

# Examples of effective utilisation of PA(A)s

- Heart of England
- Queen Elizabeth Hospital – Hand service
- Royal Devon and Exeter – Fracture clinic.....



**BLOW YOUR OWN  
TRUMPET**

*Final note....*

**Come and see what we do!**

Thank you

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