**Full Title**

**Physician Associates in England's hospitals: a survey of medical directors exploring current usage and supporting/inhibiting factors to their recruitment**

**Short title: Physician Associates: hospital medical director survey**

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**Conflicts of interests**

SdeL is Head of Department of Clinical and Experimental Medicine; one of the Sections of this Department – Medical Education is to launch a physician associate course autumn 2016.

JP chairs the UK and Ireland Board for Physician Associate Education and is director of the Physician Associate programme at the University of Birmingham.

**Author contributions**

VMD, MH, JP, SdeL, JG, RG, HG and JE conceived and were awarded funding for the study; VMD, MH, JP, CW designed the data collection tool; CW and MH collated and analysed the data; CW, MH, VMD, JP, SdeL, RG, JG, HG interpreted the data; CW wrote the first draft of the manuscript; all authors critically revised the manuscript and agreed the final version.

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