

Request under Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for your request for information which we received on 10 February 2022.

I am pleased to confirm the following.

1. Please briefly outline the relevant services within outpatient and/or community physiotherapy that you are commissioned to provide for musculoskeletal conditions, and any services that are specific to back pain?

Our service provides episodic care, within a multimodal approach to patient care.

We accept referrals from Orthopaedic consultants within a secondary care setting including spinal consultant teams, (from elective and trauma clinics), Pain management consultants, Rheumatology consultants (inflammatory and non-inflammatory conditions)

The majority of patients should have had their initial Physiotherapy in the primary care setting before referral to the respective hospital teams for support, unfortunately this doesn't always happen. We rarely see acute low back pain in a secondary care setting

We do hold a small GP contract for standard primary care treatment

2. What is the current average waiting time for a musculoskeletal physiotherapy appointment for a new referral or self-referral for non-specific lower back pain? (if you are not able to answer this specifically for low back pain please provide the figure for musculoskeletal physiotherapy more generally in your service)

The current waiting time for the following is approximately:

- Acute low back pain 2-3 weeks
- Routine low back pain is 4-6 months
- Post-surgical radicular pain/ stabilisation 2-3 weeks

Referrals are not recorded on eCare to specify the reason for referral (i.e., lower back pain) so unfortunately only a generic number can be provided.

4. How many patients are currently on your waiting list(s) for physiotherapy services for lower back pain?

As above, reason for referral is not recorded in eCare. Non-clinical admin team records the reason

for referral, however, "lower back pain" would be recorded in a generalised time down as "Back Pain".

As of 11/2/22, 11.8% of our waiting list was recorded as "Back Pain" - total of 82 referrals.

5. How many patients are currently on your waiting list(s) for physiotherapy services across all musculoskeletal conditions?

As of 11/2/22, there are 695 patients on our musculoskeletal physiotherapy waiting list.

6. Does your musculoskeletal physiotherapy service(s) accept self-referrals from patients for back pain (as opposed to requiring a GP or primary care referral)?

No

7. What is the contract type by which you are commissioned to provide musculoskeletal physiotherapy services?

Minimum Guarantee Contract

a. If paid by activity and/or outcomes/results please provide the unit costs used to charge the CCG (e.g. cost per physio appointment)

N/A

b. If part of a block contract please provide the details of any KPIs (and the associated incentives) within that block contract used to measure/monitor the quality of MSK physiotherapy services.

Block contract

8. How does the average healthcare spend per patient for non-specific low back pain break down across different services and costs?

Information not available

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If you need any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us at the address above.

Yours sincerely,

Freedom of Information Co-ordinator

For and on behalf of Milton Keynes Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

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