

# Musculoskeletal Services

## Provision Update

- Musculoskeletal Clinical Assessment and Triage Service (MSKCATS) and the MSK Physiotherapy services is provided by Warrington & Halton Hospital (WHH)
- Patients can self-refer
- Delivery from the following sites:
  - Runcorn: Nightingale Hospital
  - Widnes: HCRC
  - Both operating Monday to Friday 9pm-5pm.
- MSKCATS waiting list average - 14 days.
- MSK physiotherapy service continues to experience high demand (613 referrals per month) impacting on waiting times up to 22 (Runcorn) – 34 (Widnes) weeks.
- Therapy services were heavily impacted by COVID-19 workforce redistribution incentives. The impact of this is still being seen in 2023 waiting times.
- MSK services is currently carrying vacancies due to the high demand for physios following the training disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic and the introduction of First Contract Practitioners by NHSE.

## Developments

- MSKCATS recently adopted a GP practice care navigated self-referral model. This service change commenced in November 2022, stabilising the services deficit in capacity versus expected demand and reduced waiting times for assessment from 11 weeks to 14 days.
- WHH are implementing the following waiting list initiatives to reduce MSK Physio waiting times:
  - Trialling group consultation model pioneered in other NHS trusts.
  - Offering patients who have opted for Widnes clinic locations a shorter waiting time in Runcorn clinic.
  - Senior physio's reviewing referrals to ensure patients who need onwards referral are not having to wait.
- WHH has recruited 3.7 x WTE Physio First Contact Practitioners (FCP) on behalf of Runcorn PCN as part of the ARRS programme. It is envisaged that these Additional Role Reimbursement Scheme (ARRS) staff will support GP practices by offering assessment and management for patients with complex MSK issues.
- WHH is also engaged with Widnes PCN to understand if they have additional MSK ARRS needs which the service can support. Widnes PCN is assessing its options with regards to additional MSK FCP services.

## Current MSK Provision in Halton

Service	Description	Location	Operating Times	Referral Route	Indicative Waiting Times
<b>Musculoskeletal Clinical Assessment and Triage Service (MSK CATS)</b>	Assessment and Triage Service for musculoskeletal issues.	<b>Runcorn:</b> Nightingale Hospital, Hospital Way, Palace fields, Runcorn WA7 2DA <b>Widnes:</b> Widnes HCRC, Caldwell Rd, Widnes WA8 7GD	9-5 Monday Friday.	Care Navigated self-referral via GP practice.	Less than 2 weeks
<b>MSK Physio.</b>	Provides treatment of muscles, joints, tendons and ligament problems.	<b>Runcorn:</b> Nightingale Hospital, Hospital Way, Palace fields, Runcorn WA7 2DA <b>Widnes:</b> Widnes HCRC, Caldwell Rd, Widnes WA8 7GD	9-5 Monday Friday.	Requires referral from GP practice, Consultant, MSKCATS.	34 weeks* - Widnes Clinic 24 weeks* - Runcorn Clinic (Patient has a choice as to which they attend)
<b>Community Therapy Team.</b>	Domiciliary joint Physio and OT services providing treatment in the community.	Community based	9-5 Monday Friday.	Requires referral from GP practice, Consultant.	24 weeks*
<b>Chronic Pain Management Service.</b>	Provides support for patients who have chronic pain from MSK related issues.	Nightingale Hospital, Hospital Way, Palace fields, Runcorn WA7 2DA	9-5 Monday Friday.	Requires referral from GP practice, Consultant, MSK services as part of a treatment plan.	6-8 weeks**
<b>Occupational Therapy</b>	Occupational therapy provides practical support to overcome any barriers that prevent them from doing the activities (occupations) and aid recovery	Nightingale Hospital, Hospital Way, Palace fields, Runcorn WA7 2DA	9-5 Monday Friday.	Requires referral from GP practice, Consultant, MSKCATS.	8-12 weeks *

Other secondary services such as Orthopaedics, Podiatry, Rheumatology, Wellbeing, Weight Management, Women's Health and Neuro Rehab all form part of the MSK Pathway.

\* For routine first appointment. Referrals triaged as urgent are seen more quickly.

\*\* Patient is referred to Chronic Pain Management as part of a multifaceted treatment plan put in place by MSK team, consultant or GP and will be seen by other professionals during this wait.