

Ref no: 003280819
From: Public
Date: 28/08/19
Subject: MSK physiotherapy services

REQUEST

I am writing to request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act:

Request 1: Please provide details of the number of referrals received by the Trust for patients to all MSK physiotherapy services for the following financial years: i) 2016/17, ii) 2017/18 and iii) 2018/2019

Request 2: Please confirm or deny whether the Trust provides Musculoskeletal (MSK) services that include first contact physiotherapists in General Practice

Request 3: Please confirm or deny whether patients can self-refer to physiotherapy services within the MSK services provided by the Trust

Request 4: The amount of time taken between a referral (regardless of its source) to physiotherapist being made and the patient's first appointment with the physiotherapist for both routine and urgent cases

Please provide details of the average time taken for the following financial years:

i) 2016/17 Routine: Urgent:

ii) 2017/18 Routine: Urgent:

iii) 2018/2019 Routine: Urgent:

c) If this is not available, please confirm if another entity, and if so which, holds this information for patients in the locality.

d) If this information is not held by you or another health body in your area, please confirm if referral to treatment times for physiotherapist appointments used to be recorded and if so, when did this cease to be measured?

Definitions of terms used in questions 2 and 3:

First contact physiotherapists in General Practice* = When a patient has an appointment with a physiotherapist instead of a GP at a GP practice

Patient self-referral**= Patients can refer themselves to physio without seeing a GP or having a referral from anyone else.

RESPONSE

Our services only provide support for patients who have had an acute orthopaedic injury or surgery at Whiston Hospital referred by STHK Orthopaedic Consultants (and for this trust only). These patients will have been an in-patient in St Helens or Whiston Hospital or have been referred via consultant/fracture clinic either face to face or by the virtual service.

Our MSK service does not accept referrals for musculoskeletal conditions from GPs, Consultants from other Trusts (including private hospitals), community based services or for non-acute conditions e.g. over 6 months in duration. All these referrals are seen by the **Musculoskeletal Clinical Assessment Service (MCAS)** delivered by **North West Boroughs Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust** for Knowsley and St Helens patients.