

Ref no: 240250817
From: Commercial
Date: 25/08/17
Subject: Physiotherapy Services

REQUEST

MUSCULOSKELETAL (MSK) PATHWAY

Request 6:

- a) Please confirm/deny whether St Helens and Knowsley Hospitals NHS Trust provides MSK services that include first contact physiotherapists in General Practice:

- b) Please confirm/deny whether patients can self-refer to physiotherapy services within the MSK services provided by St Helens and Knowsley Hospitals NHS Trust:

Notes on terms used in Request 6

First contact physiotherapists in General Practice

- When an individual contacts their GP they can be offered a consultation with the *First contact physiotherapist* instead of seeing the GP and without needing to see the GP first.
- *First contact physiotherapists in General Practice* provide assessment, diagnosis, exercise/ self-care advice, and if necessary, referral for investigations or treatment.
- They may work solely in General Practice (s) or they may be both part of the GP team and a physiotherapy team providing services in community or secondary care.
 - *First contact physiotherapists in General Practice* have been given a variety of different job titles

Self-referral to physiotherapy services

Self-referral is the term for a means of accessing physiotherapy services, where patients can arrange an appointment without needing to be referred by a health professional.

Public interest arguments

There is a clear public interest for disclosure of this information, in that disclosure will:

- Further the understanding of and participation in the public debate of issues of the day, and will allow a more informed debate of issues under consideration by public bodies
- Promote accountability and transparency by public authorities for decisions taken by them.
- Promote accountability and transparency in the spending of public money.
- Allow individuals to understand decisions made by public authorities affecting their lives and, in some cases, assisting individuals in challenging those decisions.

RESPONSE

- a) The Trust does not provide this service
- b) No – Patients cannot self-refer