

What is it?

A new integrated Musculoskeletal (MSK) Service is being launched on the 1st of October. This will include Orthopaedics, spinal, rheumatology, chronic pain and physiotherapy services and will be provided by Ipswich Hospital with Allied Health Professionals Suffolk (AHPS). AHPS will be running a single point of access (SPOA) into the service where all referrals will be administratively and clinically triaged to ensure they arrive at the right service, first time. AHPS will also be providing the community physiotherapy element of the service. Patients will be referred within the specialties and GPs will not get requests to re refer into a different specialty.

What is NOT included?

Fracture liaison service (please see map of medicine)

Falls service (please see map of medicine)

Pre and post natal women requiring physiotherapy should self refer to the Women's health physiotherapy service, using the telephone number on the front of their maternity notes (01473 703522).

Continence – bowel, bladder, pelvic floor and other urogynaecological conditions (Please see map of medicine)

Community podiatry – (please see map of medicine).

What is included?

The service is age inclusive and covers all MSK services. This will be for all referrals including upper limb, lower limb, spinal, foot and ankle, pain, rheumatology and community MSK physiotherapy services.

All red flag referrals should also be referred via the SPOA, from where they will be passed through to the relevant service without delay.

How do I refer?

Patients aged 16 and above may self-refer for community physiotherapy, cards will be provided to practices with the details for this. Self-referral is via the referral portal on the website (www.ahpsuffolk.co.uk) and click on physiotherapy self-referral. Patients who do not have web access can enter their details by telephone (0333 043 39 66 and press option 1).

All other referrals must be made by the Single Point of Access using the national e referral system (<https://nww.ebs.ncrs.nhs.uk/>) and the Ipswich and East Suffolk MSK service referral form with attached speciality forms.

Name of service on e-referral system: AHPS/IES MSK Single Point of Access Service.

Clinic Type: Musculoskeletal

Speciality: Physiotherapy

Please indicate priority either routine / urgent.

All other points of access into the service will be closed with effect from the 1st of October. Please do not send or fax written referrals direct to medical secretaries.

Referrals to the pain service for MSK conditions require an Örebro Musculoskeletal pain. This form will help enable decision making as to the best pain management treatment for the patient. Completion of the form will ensure the patient is seen in a timely manner by the appropriate health care professional.

Please ensure that all referrals are fully completed with the attached forms as indicated on the main referral form. Failure to fill in these forms will mean that they are rejected and returned to the GP. Upper limb referrals require an upper limb threshold form to be completed and foot and ankle referrals a first ray (bunion) threshold form if applicable.

Start Date

1st October 2016

Contact details

For further information please contact :

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