

A person is lying on a massage table, receiving a massage from a therapist. The therapist's hands are visible, applying pressure to the person's back. The scene is dimly lit, with a soft blue glow. A green vertical bar is on the left side of the image.

The Role of FCP Physiotherapy in primary care:

What's the benefit to primary care?

MSK challenges faced by Primary Care



Variable confidence in managing MSK conditions.



Continued growth in MSK demand.



Increasing pressure on PCN staff.

What is an FCP service?

Musculoskeletal (MSK) conditions make up to a third of a GP's caseload, and this number increases as patients get older. 85% of these patients do not need to see a GP and can be effectively managed by an experienced MSK clinician, who can see the patient early and give the right advice and intervention individualised to that patient; this is the role of first contact physiotherapy practitioners.

Musculoskeletal first contact practitioners (FCPs) form part of NHS England's long-term plan to:



Reduce the burden on GPs for patients with MSK complaints.



Streamline the MSK pathway.



'Right person, right place, first time'.



Make it easier for patients to access specialist MSK knowledge and skills.

The benefit to Primary care

- ✓ FCPs reduce pressure on PCNs and frontline staff
- ✓ Immediate access to expert MSK clinicians with full clinical governance
- ✓ Minimal cost to PCN by utilising the ARRS funding
- ✓ Our focus is entirely on local PCN priorities
- ✓ Flexibility to meet changing local needs
- ✓ Enhanced expertise, education and resources on MSK issues accessible for all PCN staff

Why FCP Physiotherapy?



Experience

FCPs are experienced MSK clinicians: 5 years post graduation working at MSc/level 7



Governance

Full governance and competency via the FCP roadmap, CQC expected



Confidence

Expert MSK physio guidelines published by HEE and local pathways and policy.



Education

Working with local pathways, PCNs and universities, informing best practice through research.

127,918

Total appointments
seen by FCPs

80.5%

Of patients referred to
our service were
managed by the FCPs
without need for onward
referral

95.8%

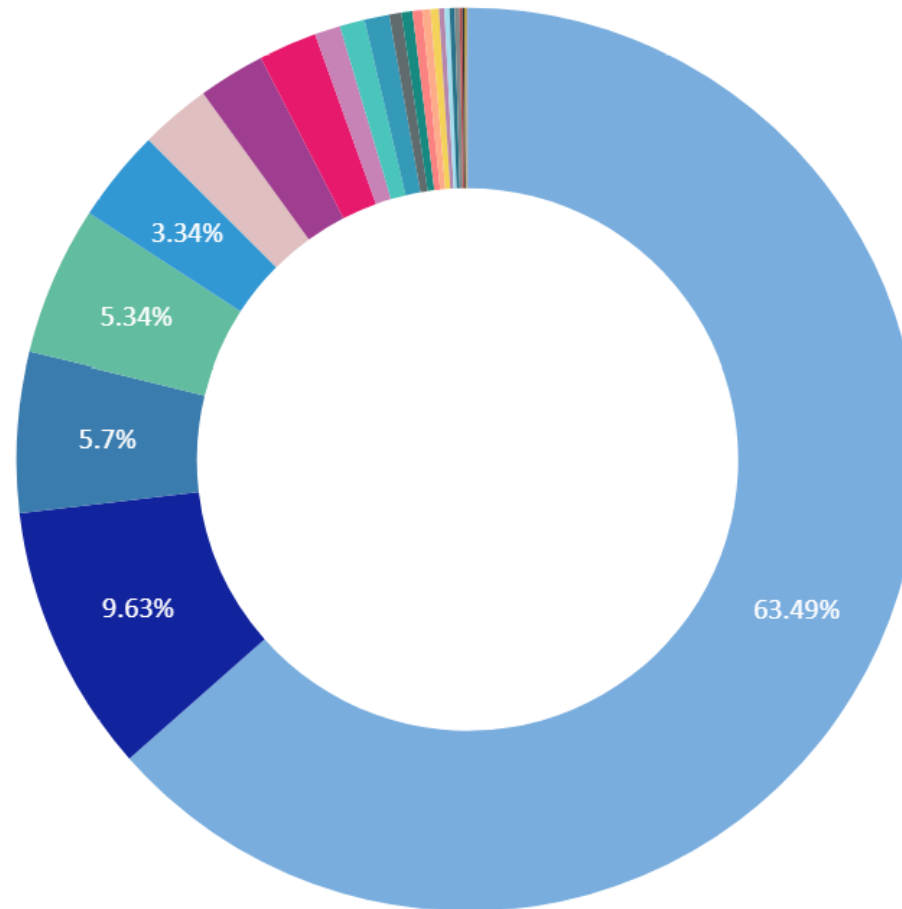
Of patients referred
to our service didn't
require further GP
care

Referrals by outcome

127,918

Total appointments
seen by FCPs

Primary Outcome	Average
Self Management	63.49%
DNA	9.63%
Referral to Physiotherapy	5.70%
Face-to-Face FCP	5.34%
Referral for Imaging	3.34%
Referral to MSK service	2.53%
GP Review	2.39%
Follow Up Booked	2.09%
GP Medication Review	0.92%
Request Blood Tests	0.89%
Referral to Orthopaedics	0.89%
GP Injection	0.43%
FCP Injection	0.39%
A+E	0.34%
Community	0.30%
Referral to Podiatry	0.30%
Referral to Pain Clinic	0.19%
Fitness For Work Form	0.18%
Referral to Rheumatology	0.18%
Pharmacist Review	0.18%
Referral to Neurology	0.09%
Referral to Social prescriber	0.08%
Referral to Wellbeing Service / IAPT	0.06%
Falls Service	0.05%



National data from
last 6 months

Patient feedback

"First time for a long time I have actually felt I was listened to and understood my concerns on my illness "

[FCP] was lovely. She understood what I was saying and explained everything to me in a kind and understanding way"

"Answered all my concerns and gave me a route back, if necessary"

"Great asset to your team. Very happy patient this end"

"I was so pleased to chat with the FCP today and very impressed with the speed of which she contacted me... I only emailed the practice yesterday"

"She genuinely took an interest in my condition and was most helpful and reassuring"



Any questions?