

**Service Information from the Ealing MSK Interface and MSK Physiotherapy Service**

Dear GP/FCP

I am writing to you to advise of changes to the MSK and Physiotherapy Service Pathways. The service is implementing a range of changes to try to reduce our waiting times to offer a more responsive service for patients.

These changes are:

* Cessation of the referral facilitation pathway
* Amendments to the urgent MSK and Physiotherapy referral criteria

**Cessation of the referral facilitation pathway**

From the 7th May we will no longer be providing a screening service for referrals which you think need to go directly to secondary care. If your patient requires Physiotherapy or MSK input, please refer them as usual to the Physiotherapy or MSK service.

For those for who you feel a secondary care opinion is required, please refer directly via ERS to your chosen provider.

**Amendments to the urgent MSK and Physiotherapy referral criteria**

For those patients you feel require urgent physiotherapy or urgent MSK interface opinion we have amended the referral criteria. For urgent spinal referrals, a full spinal neurological assessment with sensory and motor testing, and the outcome of these tests, must be clear from the referral before they will be allocated to an urgent appointment. GPs/FCPs please ensure that the referral contains the following information as this allows the team to identify those patients needing urgent appointments. It also enables the screening of patients with possible spinal cord involvement who require urgent imaging or onward referral, and prevents delays in their care.

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| **Neurological Tests** | **Information Required** |
| Sensory Testing | Altered sensation documented |
| Myotome testing | Altered power documented |
| Reflex testing and clonus | Reflex and clonus response documented |
| Balance | Such as Rombergs Test, heel toe walking |

We are working to update the referral form, as well as a range of other service innovations to improve our responsiveness. I will update you on our progress over the next few months as soon as the work is complete.

Yours sincerely

Stephanie Griffiths

Consultant Physiotherapist