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| cheshire training hub |
| Training Hub Physiotherapist Support Pack |
| Sub-category of Governance Framework for Training and Education in Primary Care |
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| NHS England intends that by 2024, all adults in England will be able to see a musculoskeletal first contact physiotherapist at their local GP practice without being referred by a GP. This document provides guidance to practice managers when developing and supporting this role in primary care. |

**Introduction**

**Providing new expertise and increased capacity to General Practice**

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**Training Hub Physiotherapist Support Pack**

**Introduction**

From 2018, through the development of a [Primary Care Academy](http://www.cheshireandmerseysideprimarycareacademy.co.uk/index.php) (PCA), the 6 Training Hubs in Cheshire and Merseyside have been working collaboratively. The [Training Hubs](http://www.cheshireandmerseysideprimarycareacademy.co.uk/index.php/contact-us)  are a resource of further information and guidance for each of the primary care networks, in order to engage and develop their workforce to ensure future success and sustainability. The purpose of this training support pack is to guide and direct practice managers and employees, and assist in the successful development of the growing number of roles within primary care.

NHS organisations and the multidisciplinary team within must work together and with others to share the common resources available for meeting the health needs of the population. The development of new roles and standardising of training and education of all healthcare staff is necessary for future success. The increasing demand on primary care and referrals into secondary care services requires a new approach in order to cope with the workload.

In addition to the increased workload and complexity of patients’ needs, it is necessary to develop the workforce in accordance with the demands. The presence of a physiotherapist in a practice can provide patients and the practice management team with more options as to how they provide care to their patient list and potentially this benefits patients by allowing them swift access to a specialist.

**Providing new expertise and increased capacity to General Practice**

Physiotherapists have the clinical expertise to autonomously assess, diagnose and treat patients with a range of conditions including: musculoskeletal, neurological and respiratory conditions. Musculoskeletal (MSK) conditions alone are estimated to account for 20-30% of GP consultations.

NHS England intends that by 2024, all adults in England will be able to see a musculoskeletal first contact physiotherapist at their local GP practice without being referred by a GP.

By making it easier for patients to access a physiotherapist, they will have quicker access to diagnosis and treatment, helping them to manage their conditions more effectively and get back to normal life more quickly. This will also help GPs to manage their workload more effectively, reducing the need for onward referrals.

The GP five-year contract announced funding for 20,000 new primary care healthcare professionals such as physiotherapists and from 2020, GP practices will be able to access funding to employ their own musculoskeletal first contact practitioner (FCP). The Primary Care Academy (PCA) provides links and information to the [Clinical Roles](http://www.cheshireandmerseysideprimarycareacademy.co.uk/index.php/clinical-roles) being developed currently within the primary care setting.

FCP roles require advanced skills across many areas based upon the principles of shared decision-making and person-centred care. In England, the Musculoskeletal Core Capabilities Framework for First Point of Contact Practitioners, produced by Health Education England (HEE), sets out clear expectations for the role and can be used to inform training needs analysis and recruitment.

**Training and Development Framework**

The [MSK Core Capabilities for FCP](https://www.csp.org.uk/system/files/musculoskeletal_framework2.pdf) can be downloaded here in order to support the improvement of services, placing skilled MSK practitioners earlier in patient pathways. Many health professionals (such as GPs and physiotherapists) are already working in accordance with these capabilities. For others, the capabilities will provide a framework for continuing professional development. The framework sets out a standard for consistent, safe and effective practice across a range of practitioners working as part of a multi-professional team in a variety of settings, including primary care. The framework supports the implementation of the NHS England-supported [First Contact Physiotherapists](https://www.england.nhs.uk/gp/our-practice-teams/first-contact-physiotherapists/) model of care into service delivery.

Health Education England (HEE) have also set out a roadmap for the FCP MSK role (link below in resource list) which provides the key steps to consider when implementing FCP services with links to resources that can act as a starting point. HEE and NHS England (NHSE) agree that FCP roles require advanced level skills to manage individuals with undifferentiated diagnoses at the start of the pathway recognising the uncertainty and potential complexity of patients.

**Resources**

NHS England First Contact Physiotherapists <https://www.england.nhs.uk/gp/our-practice-teams/first-contact-physiotherapists/>

HEE FCP MSK road map (2021) <https://www.hee.nhs.uk/our-work/primary-care>

Elective Care High Impact Interventions: First Contact Practitioner for MSK services 2019 <https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/elective-care-high-impact-interventions-first-contact-practitioner-msk-services-specification.pdf>

NHS England Transforming musculoskeletal and orthopaedic elective care services <https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/transforming-musculoskeletal-and-orthopaedic-elective-care-services/>

Chartered Society of Physiotherapy: About first contact physiotherapist roles <https://www.csp.org.uk/professional-clinical/improvement-innovation/first-contact-physiotherapy-2/faqs/fcp-roles>

Skills for Health: Musculoskeletal Core Capabilities Framework <https://www.skillsforhealth.org.uk/services/item/574-musculoskeletal-core-skills-framework>