

Advanced Practice Physiotherapists

Description of role/core responsibilities

Indicative Agenda for Change Band 7-8a

Advanced Practice Physiotherapist have advanced skills to assess, diagnose, treat and manage musculoskeletal (MSK) problems and undifferentiated conditions. This will involve seeing patients, without prior contact with their GP, to establish a rapid and accurate diagnosis and management plan, thus streamlining pathways of care. They can work independently and do not require supervision, thus helping to release workload currently undertaken by GPs. Patients can either self-refer or be referred by the network's members. Advanced Practice Physiotherapists will have a key role in supporting delivery of the new Network Contract DES Service specifications.

The following sets out the key role responsibilities for FCP physiotherapists

- a. They will work as part of a multi-disciplinary team in a patient facing role, using their expert knowledge of Musculoskeletal (MSK) issues, to create stronger links for wider MSK services.
- b. They will assess, diagnosis, triage and treat patients either via patient self- referrals or referrals from a professional within network, and take responsibility for managing a complex caseload (including patients with long term conditions, co- morbidities and multi-factorial needs). Practice physiotherapists will progress and request investigations (such as x-rays and blood tests) to facilitate diagnosis and choice of treatment regime.
- c. They will develop integrated and tailored care programmes in partnership with patients and provide a range of treatment options, including self-management, exercise groups or individual treatment sessions. These programmes will facilitate behavioural change, optimise patient's physical activity and mobility, support fulfilment of personal goals and independence and reduce the need for pharmacological interventions.
- d. They will develop and make use of their scope of practice and clinical skills, including those relating to independent prescribing, injection therapy and imaging referral rights (where qualified/experienced).
- e. They will provide learning opportunities for the whole multi-professional team within primary care. They will also work across the multi-disciplinary team to develop more effective and streamlined clinical pathways and services.
- f. They will liaise with secondary care MSK services, as required, to support the management of patients in primary care.
- g. Using their professional judgement, they will take responsibility for making and justifying decisions in unpredictable situations, including the in the context of incomplete/contradictory information.
- h. They will manage complex interactions, including working with patients with particular psychosocial and mental health needs and with colleagues across primary care teams, sectors and setting.
- i. They will be accountable for decisions and actions via Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) registration, supported by a professional culture of peer networking/review and engagement in evidence-based practice.