Creating an advanced first contact MSK service in Primary care

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• Consultation rates and demand in Primary Care are rising.

• Improving appropriateness of referral and conversion rate to surgery for secondary care.

• Effective upstream management LTCs and Public health issues.

• De-medicalisation of healthcare

• The musculoskeletal care pathway is an area that can be effectively streamlined to address these issues by creating a new role.

**Why create a new role?**
• Musculoskeletal Physiotherapist with Advanced Practice skills: injection therapy, ordering and interpretation of x-rays/ultrasound scans/ MRI scans and bloods, non medical prescribing.

• Provision of highly specialised assessment and diagnostic triage to determine the basis for referral, investigations and further management into secondary care.

• Audit/research.

• Musculoskeletal Education and advice for Multi Disciplinary Team

What is advanced FCP?
Why a Physiotherapist?

- 30% of GP consultations are related to a MSK problem

- Physiotherapists are MSK specialists

- GPs upskill and update by having a physio on their team
• FCP will need GP supervision and won't be autonomous
• Patients will “bounce back” to see the GP anyway
• Patients will need to see their GP for investigation/interpretation of investigation/referral

Myth busters 1
- Single Problem Area Clinics means empty slots

- FCP needs to be a prescriber and an injector

- FCP will work out more expensive than a GP

- Can’t recruit the right level of physiotherapy

Myth busters 2
Does it work?

shown to provide a cost effective, efficient, popular role in Primary Care

Is shown to benefit secondary care by; reducing referrals, helping throughput, improving relevant referral gaining a higher conversion rate to surgery.

It improves GP capacity and generates income from injections and reduces prescribing costs

It reduces investigation for MSK conditions

Reduces prescription costs

FCPP provides an easily accessible, reproducible highly specialised musculoskeletal service for patients close to home and is being rolled out to all 44 STPs in England