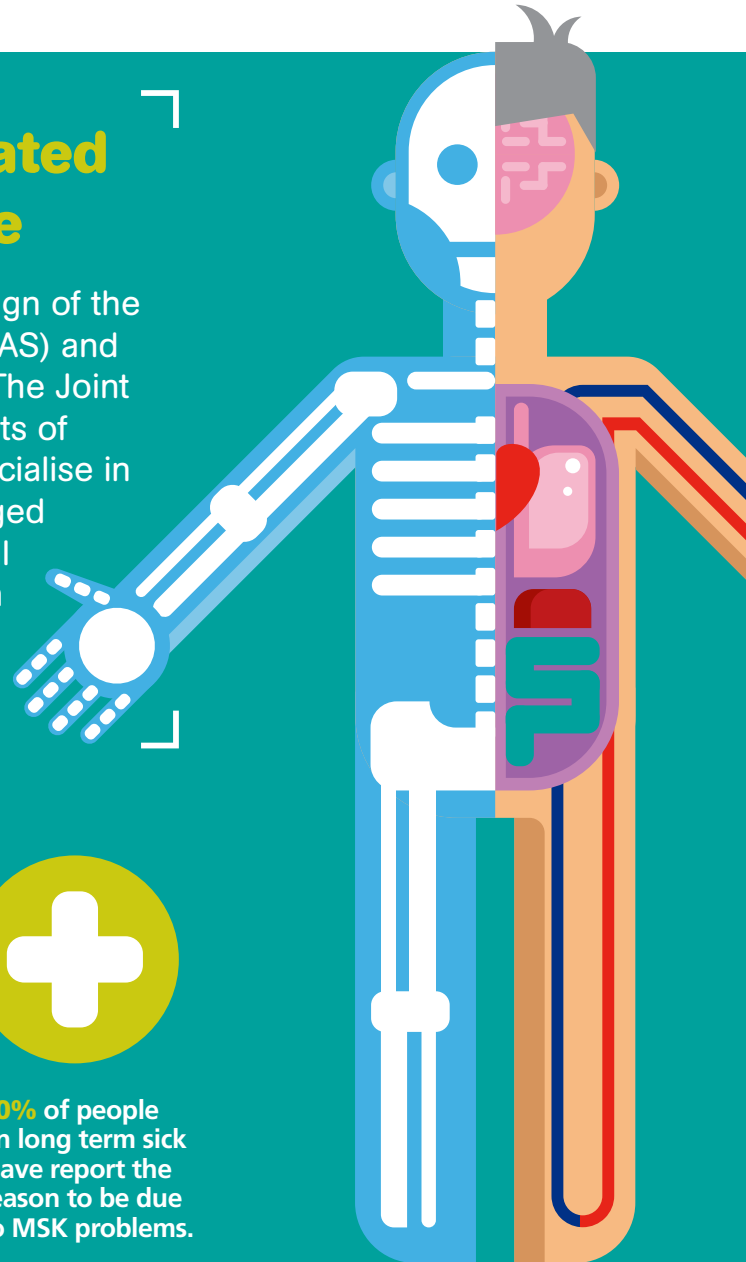


# Orthopaedic referrals

Musculoskeletal (MSK) Services | PATIENTS

## About Joint Health – Integrated Musculoskeletal (MSK) Care

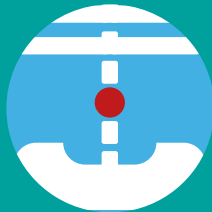
Joint Health is an Integrated MSK Service (Redesign of the Musculoskeletal Clinical Assessment Service (MCAS) and Routine Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy Service). The Joint Health Service is a specialist service which consists of doctors, physiotherapists and podiatrists who specialise in orthopaedic/MSK medicine. It supports people aged 16 and over to manage a range of Musculoskeletal conditions (joint and muscle problems) which can affect their neck; spine, shoulders, elbows, wrist/hands plus hips, knees, ankles and feet.



### What we know so far



**1 in 4** UK adults are affected by chronic and long lasting MSK problems.



Low back pain is reported by **80%** of people at some time in their life.



MSK problems are **the most common reason** for repeated GP visits.



**60%** of people on long term sick leave report the reason to be due to MSK problems.

## Changes to referrals

**NHS West Lancashire CCG (as of 1.11.16) are asking local GP practices to change their management of orthopaedic referrals.**

This will mean all orthopaedic referrals will now be referred directly to the Joint Health Service. Referrals will be triaged (assessed). If you do not hear from the service, please assume your MCAS appointment is to be kept. If your referral is triaged to one of these services e.g. physiotherapy, podiatry or secondary care orthopaedics, you will be informed either by telephone or letter.

### What this change means for patients.

- Your GP referral will be assessed by a team of musculoskeletal specialists
- You may be given an appointment to see a specialist doctor or a musculoskeletal physiotherapy or podiatry specialist
- You may be offered treatment by a range of different clinicians who work in the Joint Health service
- You will be encouraged to discuss treatment options and ask questions
- You will be offered a choice of which hospital to attend if a referral to a hospital consultant is needed
- You will be supported to self-manage your condition
- Your GP will be updated about the outcome of your assessment and treatment

### Get in touch

**This change to the referral process is just one of the ways we are hoping to make improvements.**

If you would like to be involved in our Musculoskeletal programme of work, please get in touch with the CCG via the following details [myview@westlancashireccg.nhs.uk](mailto:myview@westlancashireccg.nhs.uk) or 01695 588 000

Joint Health is provided by Southport & Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust