**Specialism Snapshot for GPs** | Wirral Health Commissioning Consortium

**Musculoskeletal Clinical Assessment Service (MCAS)**

**About the service**
Commissioned by Wirral Health Clinical Consortium, the MCAS service offers expert opinion for musculoskeletal (MSK) patients with diagnostic uncertainty. It provides advice, guidance and support on the most appropriate investigations and pathway for management.

**Who we can see**
Suitable patients are those with complex MSK conditions. Such patients may or may not have already received therapeutic treatment but will still experience significant discomfort and dysfunction despite usual conservative measures.

These patients often have diagnostic uncertainty and are therefore difficult to manage.

Unsuitable patients are those where surgical intervention is obvious.

**What we do**
In the expert practitioner led clinic patients will be offered a thorough clinical assessment. The aim is to provide an explanation on the condition and offer advice, education and self management strategies. Patients will be seen by either a GP with special interest in MSK conditions or an extended scope physiotherapist. Both will be able to identify patients suitable for joint and soft tissue injections and administer if required.

**The benefits**
The service aims to manage patients within primary care and ensure only those who require specialist consultant opinion are referred to secondary care, thus reducing costs and waiting times for patients.

The MCAS service is designed to improve outcomes and satisfaction for patients and to provide a high quality service in a community setting.

**How to refer**
Patients can be referred into the service from any Wirral Health Commissioning Consortium GP practice. Referrals can be made by:

**Email:** bi.ry7nkevitt@nhs.net

**Fax:** 0151 653 4380

**Post:** MCAS, Physiotherapy Dept, St Catherine’s Health Centre, Derby Road, Birkenhead, Wirral, CH42 7HA.

The MCAS referral from can be found on our website www.wirralct.nhs.uk/physio

Patients will be contacted by the service to make their appointment.

Referrers will be provided with a comprehensive assessment report within 4 working days offering diagnosis and a management plan.
❤️ Our team

Sue Bintley-Bagot
Specialist Physiotherapist
Grad Dip Phys, MSOMM, Dip Inj Therapy, PG Cert Advanced Practice.

Sue qualified as a physiotherapist in 1992 and became a clinical specialist whilst working on the Rheumatic diseases unit at the Royal Liverpool Hospital in 2000. A member of the Society of Musculoskeletal Medicine, Sue has a diploma in joint and soft tissue injection therapy, has had articles published and was awarded best poster presentation by the British Society of Rheumatology in 2005.

Sue is an extended scope practitioner for Wirral Community NHS Trust working closely with GPs with special interest in musculoskeletal and the trust’s physiotherapy teams. In 2011 she qualified as an advanced practitioner. Sue is a visiting lecturer at Chester University and her spare time is spent with her three children or training for the occasional half marathon.

Dr Alasdair R Wright
MRCGP, DSM, BSc. (sports science), DOM.

Alasdair qualified in Manchester before going on to become a GP with a special interest in musculoskeletal medicine. Early exposure to orthopaedic problems started with his involvement in rugby, tennis and triathalon, which led him to gain post graduate qualifications in sports medicine, sports science and then orthopaedic medicine.

Before working as a GP in Greasby he ran a sports injury clinic in Newport Shropshire which had a strong focus on biomechanical rehabilitation. Most of the MSK work he is involved in now is general orthopaedic medicine with a current role in the Wirral joint injection service and GP up-skilling clinics. He still enjoys taking part in triathlons and the occasional game of tennis.

Dr Dave Price
BMBS, DCH, MRCGP, MSc (Sports Medicine), FFSEM.

David qualified as a GP in 1993 with MRCGP and DCH at Nottingham University and Derby VTS. He worked as a GP in Western Australia for 1 year and saved enough money to become a full time student again. He studied a Masters Degree in Sports Medicine at Trinity College, Dublin 1994-1995 and wrote up his degree whilst working as a cruise ship doctor with P&O.

He settled down to become a GP partner late in 1996 and by 1997 had set up an NHS musculoskeletal clinic and a private sports clinic. He is also an external examiner for Trinity College, a tutor for Advanced Musculoskeletal Physios and was the Chief Medical Officer for the World Indoor Cycling Championships, Velodrome, Manchester 2000-2009.

❤️ Our clinics

Patients can be seen in various locations across Wirral either in hubs or GP practices where GP up-skilling can also occur. Hub locations are at St Catherine’s Health Centre, Birkenhead and Victoria Central Health Centre, Wallasey.

Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation Service
Administration
Port Causeway,
Bromborough,
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If you would like to provide feedback about any of our services please contact our Patient Experience Officer on 0151 514 6311 or Freephone 0800 694 5530 or by email: patient.experience@wirralct.nhs.uk