



Workforce planning chart for MSK

This chart aims to support workforce planning by setting out the breadth of healthcare professionals specialising in musculoskeletal health and available to support musculoskeletal services.

	Chiropractor	Dietitian ¹	GP	Osteopath ²	Physio-therapist ³	Podiatrist ⁴	Rheumatologist	Rheumatology clinical nurse specialist	Sport and exercise consultant	Sports rehabilitator ⁵	Sports therapist	Orthopaedic surgeon
Main delivery settings												
1) Primary Care			✓	✓	✓	✓	⁶ ✓	⁷ ✓				
2) Secondary Care	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3) Community	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
4) Independent sector	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Treatments address♦ :												
1) Inflammatory conditions	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
2) Mechanical MSK pain conditions (eg osteoarthritis)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
3) Osteoporosis	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓		✓
4) Injury	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
5) Prevention programmes e.g. <i>Escape pain</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	
6) Chronic pain	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	

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Skills and techniques include ♦ :												
1) Manual therapy	✓			✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	
2) Drug therapies, prescribing and monitoring			✓				✓	✓	✓			
3) Prescribes exercises	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
4) Rehabilitation	✓			✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	
5) Diagnose	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6) Refer	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
7) Surgery												✓
8) With additional training can:		Supplementary prescribing	Joint and soft tissue injections; issue Fit Notes		Non-medical prescribing ; diagnostic and interventional ultrasound ; joint and soft tissue injections.	Non-medical prescribing; joint and soft tissue injections; diagnostic ultrasound; Surgery		Non-medical prescribing; injections; ultrasound	Diagnostic and interventional ultrasound.			

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Regulated by	General Chiropractic Council	Health and Care Professions Council	General Medical Council	General Osteopathic Council	Health and Care Professions Council	Health and Care Professions Council	General Medical Council	Nursing & Midwifery Council	General Medical Council, FSEM	Professional Standards Authority Accredited Register	Self-regulated	General Medical Council
Core training	Masters Level Degree	Degree	MD Plus	Masters level degree	Degree	Degree	MD Plus	Degree	MD plus specialty training	Degree	Degree	MD plus surgery

◆ Based on core training

¹ Dietitians can offer advice on appropriate dietary changes to prevent or reduce the impact of MSK conditions. This includes addressing conditions such as malnutrition or obesity that increase risk of MSK conditions.

² Osteopaths use a range of techniques which focus on releasing tension, improving mobility and optimising function in those we care for, together with exercise, education and self-management advice to help patients manage pain, keep active and so far as possible maintain general health.

³ Physiotherapists are experts in rehabilitation but also in understanding a person's condition and identifying what adaptations can be made to enable them to maximise independence, and/or return to work. Physiotherapists can issue the AHP Fit note and undertake motivational interviewing. Physiotherapists play a key role with both patients and the wider MDT team in promoting health, prevention and behaviour change, and physical activity.

⁴ Podiatrists specialising in MSK conditions related to foot and lower limb biomechanics, pathology and disease create an agreed treatment plan with a patient for their recovery. As trained diagnosticians, podiatrists focus on multi-disciplinary approaches to the management of complex multi-morbid patient groups across a range of service settings.

⁵ Used widely in the MoD as Exercise Rehab Instructors (B5). Professional Association & Register - www.basrat.org

^{6, 7} Outreach clinics (hub and spoke models exist via hospitals)

PLEASE NOTE: AN EFFECTIVE MSK PATHWAY WILL INCLUDE HEALTH PROFESSIONALS FROM MANY DISCIPLINES INCLUDING OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY, OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH, PSYCHOLOGISTS AND MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS, TALKING THERAPY, PAEDIATRICIANS, LINKWORKERS, SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPISTS AND OTHERS.