Do you suffer with musculoskeletal (MSK) pain commonly known as back, joint or muscle pain?

FROM APRIL 2017 WE LAUNCH YOUR NEW MSK CATS SERVICE

How to contact the MSK CATS service?

You can talk directly with a CATS MSK Physiotherapy Practitioner about your MSK condition by contacting the service on

0151 495 5472
What is this leaflet for?
This leaflet has been designed to tell you more about the new MSK CATS service and how to get in touch.

What is the MSK CATS service?
Previously you would have initially seen your GP who would then refer you onto the specialist Clinical Assessment and Triage Service (CATS). This service is run by experienced and highly trained MSK physiotherapists. They would then assess the referral and decide on the best management for your condition.

This could then lead to you being referred for a CATS assessment, a physiotherapy assessment or an assessment by another service e.g. a consultant.

This process could take several weeks. In some cases, your condition may have improved whilst waiting for an appointment, however in some cases it may have become worse so quick access to specialist knowledge is essential.

Feedback from Halton residents, also suggested that in most cases they wanted quick, reliable advice on how to manage their condition but they didn’t know what to do or where to go for this information.

Therefore, we are trying to improve this service to meet your expectations.

What will happen when the MSK CATS service launches in April 2017?
From the 3rd April 2017 you will no longer need to be seen by your GP first about an MSK condition, you can access the service direct.

Instead you can talk directly with a CATS MSK physiotherapy practitioner about your MSK condition by contacting the service on 0151 495 5472

What happens after I contact MSK CATS?
You will receive a 10 minute telephone appointment slot initially to talk about your symptoms.

The MSK physiotherapy practitioner can then give you options on the best way forward.

If you just need advice and correct exercises given to you, we will do that.

If we feel you need to see a member of the team face to face, we will arrange that.

We can order investigations (from a face to face meeting only), refer you to other services and help you manage the MSK condition you have.

Our aim is to help you as quickly as possible get the best treatment you need.

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By asking you to contact the MSK CATS team first for your MSK condition, it is hoped you will have access to specialist advice and treatment much more quickly.

If you would like this information in an alternative format please contact NHS Halton Clinical Commissioning Group on 01928 593455 or visit: www.haltonccg.nhs.uk