

# First Contact Physiotherapists

## Overview of the role

AfC Band 7/8a

Max reimbursable amount  
over 12 months (with on cost)  
- £55670

First Contact Practitioners (FCP) are qualified autonomous clinical practitioners who can assess, diagnose, treat and manage musculoskeletal (MSK) problems and undifferentiated conditions – where appropriate – discharge a person without a medical referral. FCPs working in this role can be accessed directly by self-referral or staff in GP practices can direct patients to them to establish a rapid and accurate diagnosis and management plan to streamline pathways of care.

## Funding

100% of actual salary plus defined on-costs, up to the maximum reimbursable amount of £55670 over 12 months.

## Training/Development

- A physiotherapy degree (Bsc) is required to work as a physiotherapist in any setting.
- For band 7 roles HEE Primary care FCP capability training must be completed as the minimum threshold for entry to primary care and be supported by appropriate governance and indemnity.
- HEE primary care FCP training can begin 3-5 years post graduate
- For band 8a roles the HEE FC primary care training must be completed and they must be working at an advanced level of practice i.e. at masters level (level 7) across all four pillars of advanced practice.

## Activities Undertaken

- Work as part of an MDT in a patient facing role, using their expert knowledge of MSK issues, to create stronger links for wider MSK services through clinical leadership, teaching and evaluation skills.
- Assess, diagnose, triage and manage patients, taking responsibility for the management of a complex

## Skills and Competencies

<p>caseload. FCPs will progress and request investigations (such as x-rays and blood tests) and referrals to facilitate diagnosis and choice of treatment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop integrated and tailored care programmes in partnership with patients and provide a range of first line treatment options.</li> <li>• Develop relationships and a collaborative working approach across the PCN supporting the integration of pathways in PC.</li> <li>• Develop and make use of their full scope of practice, including skills relating to independent prescribing, injection therapy and investigation.</li> <li>• Manage complex interactions, including working with patients with psychosocial and mental health needs, referring to social prescribing when appropriate.</li> <li>• Support regional and national research and audit programmes to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of the FCP programme</li> </ul>	
<b>Supervision</b>	<b>Educator Providers</b>
<b>Job Description</b>	<b>Case Studies</b>
<p><b>Additional Resources</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.hee.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/documents/FCP%20How%20to%20Guide%20v21%20040919%20-%202.pdf">https://www.hee.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/documents/FCP%20How%20to%20Guide%20v21%20040919%20-%202.pdf</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.csp.org.uk/professional-clinical/cpd-education/cpd-advice/cpd-faqs">https://www.csp.org.uk/professional-clinical/cpd-education/cpd-advice/cpd-faqs</a></p>	