

Physiotherapy Prioritisation of Referrals

When a referral is received by the physiotherapy department it is viewed by a senior physiotherapist and decided if the patient needs an urgent appointment or can wait for a routine appointment.

These are the criteria we use to decide on urgency.

It is really helpful to have all the information requested on the referral form as it makes this process much easier and helps us avoid mistakes.

Urgent Criteria

Our standard is to see patients with urgent problems within 10 working days (in practice the waits for urgent appointments are very much less, usually just a few days).

- Off work/school
- Unable to care for a dependant
- Recent post operative/D/C from hospital
- Removal of plaster
- Recent bleed
- less than 6 weeks duration of current episode
- Acute chest (infection/haemoptysis/acute exacerbation of bronchiectasis)
- Acute neurological problem (stroke) - not admitted
- More than 34 weeks pregnant

Routine Criteria

All other patients (apart from the exceptions below) are seen in date order.

Exceptions:

Hand Patients

- Urgent patients are seen within 5 days
- Tendon repairs are seen within 3 days

Rheumatological Patients

Urgent patients include:

- Newly diagnosed inflammatory arthropathies
- Post intramuscular or intra-articular injection
- Functional difficulties

Paediatric patients

Urgent patients include:

- Orthopaedic paediatric congenital deformities e.g. Erbs palsy/DDH
- Post botox injection
- School age children requiring statement of special educational needs