

# Philip Driver MSK First Contact Practitioners & Primary Care AHP Ambassador

Phil has been a Physiotherapist for 18 years and gained his MSc in Advanced Clinical Practice in 2011. He has worked for the Integrated MSK, Pain and Rheumatology service at East Lancashire NHS Trust for 10 years and enjoyed helping to shape and innovative a forward-thinking clinical team. Over the past 2 years, Phil has been at the forefront of planning and delivering a First Contact Practitioner (FCP) service with one of the local Primary Care Networks.



He was an integral part of the pathfinding team to identify demand, design and implement the new care pathway and has enjoyed building relationships with key stakeholders throughout the system. Recently, Phil was successful at securing a secondment role for Health Education England as a Primary Care AHP Ambassador, and is excited about the opportunity to influence healthcare workforce transformation and support the implementation of AHP roles into general practice across the North West.

My role as a FCP Physiotherapist is to provide highly skilled MSK assessment as first point of contact for the patient within primary care. Patients are directed by either practice receptionist staff or as part of an online booking system to the FCP and is booked into a 20-minute appointment.

Following assessment and diagnosis, the patient moves into one of 4 clinical arms although the majority of patients are managed within the first:

1. Clear explanation of diagnosis, time frames for recovery and first line management
2. Referral for further investigation to help differential diagnosis
3. Referral to secondary care
4. Referral to specialist services such as community Physiotherapy.

There are a number of potential clinical structures that a PCN could utilise the skills and expertise of a Physiotherapy FCP dependent on local population size and distribution as well as prevalence of MSK condition. Further details can be found in the Musculoskeletal First Contact Practitioner Service implementation guide released by Health Education England in January 2020.