

File reference	W17Fol470
Key words	Physiotherapy Posts
Date of release	07/09/2017
Attachments	No

You asked

VACANCIES

Request 1

- a) **Please confirm how many whole time equivalent physiotherapist and physiotherapy support worker vacancies were held in Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust as at 31 March 2017.**

Answer: At 31st March 2017, there were 10.82wte vacant posts in physiotherapy. However, for clarity these posts were not being 'held' they were all in an active recruitment process.

- b) **Please confirm how many of the posts in Request 1a had been vacant for 3 months or more as at 31 March 2017.**

Answer: as these vacancies were due to natural turnover, we do not hold the information as to how long each individual post / recruitment process took.

POSTS

Request 2:

Please confirm how many whole time equivalent (WTE) physiotherapists and physiotherapy support workers were employed by Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust on the 31 March 2017. (This should include any generic assistant or technical instructor posts that support physiotherapy service provision).

Answer: Including vacancies 132.15wte

PATIENT DEMAND

Request 3:

Please confirm the number of new referrals (including patient self-referral) to physiotherapy services in Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust, in the following financial years:

- **1 April 2016 to end of 31 March 2017 – 22357 NP referrals**
- **1 April 2015 to end of 31 March 2016 – 21569 NP referrals**
- **1 April 2014 to end of 31 March 2015 – 20025 NP referrals**

Answer: Assuming the request is in regard to MSK OP services the numbers are above

SPENDING

Request 4:

Please confirm how much was spent on physiotherapy agency/locum/temp staff in Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust, in the following financial years:

- **1 April 2016 to end of 31 March 2017 - £61,878**
- **1 April 2015 to end of 31 March 2016 - £19,488**
- **1 April 2014 to end of 31 March 2015 - zero**

Answer: For IP and OP MSK service the spend on locums is noted above.

PRACTICE BASED LEARNING

Request 5:

Please identify the clinical areas within your physiotherapy services that provide placements for physiotherapy undergraduates in the last financial year (1 April 2016 to end of 31 March 2017).

Answer: All areas provide placements for undergraduates: Cardiothoracic, Respiratory, Acute Medicine, Neurology / Stroke, Neurosurgery, Paediatrics, Surgery, orthopaedics, MSK outpatients, Emergency Care, HCE, Critical Care etc

Musculoskeletal (MSK) pathway

Request 6:

- a) **Please confirm/deny whether Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust provides MSK services that include first contact physiotherapists in General Practice.**

Answer: No

- b) **Please confirm/deny whether patients can self-refer to physiotherapy services within the MSK services provided by Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust.**

Answer: Yes

Notes on terms used in Request 6

First contact physiotherapists in General Practice

- When an individual contacts their GP they can be offered a consultation with the ***First contact physiotherapist*** instead of seeing the GP and without needing to see the GP first.
- ***First contact physiotherapists in General Practice*** provide assessment, diagnosis, exercise/ self-care advice, and if necessary, referral for investigations or treatment.
They may work solely in General Practice (s) or they may be both part of the GP team and a physiotherapy team providing services in community or secondary care.
- ***First contact physiotherapists in General Practice*** have been given a variety of different job titles.
- ***Self-referral to physiotherapy services***
Self-referral is the term for a means of accessing physiotherapy services, where patients can arrange an appointment without needing to be referred by a health professional.