



November 2020 – MSK Services Update

Sussex MSK Partnership Central (HMS/C/B&H)

Patients presenting with suspected cancer

SMSKP is not able to accept referrals for patients where there is any suspicion of cancer as the cause of their musculoskeletal condition. The service does not have access to the 2WW pathway. These referrals will be rejected back to the GP to manage within primary care.

Where to send these patients:

- 2WW pathway
 - Direct referral to hospital acute medicine team
 - Where patients are already under oncology – referrals should be directed to the relevant dept.
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Serious Pathology identified as part of the MSK assessment

Where patients have been referred to the service with MSK conditions and further assessment has revealed potential serious pathology, these patients will be referred back to the GP to be referred on as per the options detailed above.

SMSKP do not have access to these pathways and to ensure that the patient is referred on quickly SMSKP will complete the following:

- SMSKP clinician will inform the GP of the suspicion of serious pathology and agree who is best placed to speak to the patient. In most cases, this will be the SMSKP clinician.
 - If agreed, SMSKP clinician will inform the patient of the suspicion of serious pathology and will advise the patient that they will be referred back to the GP for further management
 - A clinical outcome letter including all relevant clinical reports will be sent to the GP
 - GP to coordinate onward medical care
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Patients requiring scheduled follow up scans to review cancer status

These patients are not MSK patients and should be directed to secondary care to arrange follow up scans.

Out of Area Hospitals requesting further cancer screening investigations

These patients should be referred direct to secondary care and not to SMSKP even if the patient has previously been seen within the service.