



GP Briefing: September 2014

Musculoskeletal Integrated Clinical Assessment & Treatment Service - Stafford and Surrounds & Cannock Chase

A new, truly integrated, consultant led service putting the patient at the heart of joined up care.

New Service

Launching on **1st October** 2014, a new truly integrated musculoskeletal service (**MICATS**) will launch in Stafford and Surrounds and Cannock Chase to provide patients with a one stop access to the wide range of specialties to support the management of their conditions.

Putting patients at the centre of care, MICATS offers a joined up approach to providing **multi-disciplinary MSK treatment** (including carpal tunnel referrals), **chronic pain management** (for MSK patients only), **rheumatology nursing care** and **community physiotherapy** through a single point of access.

The service is led by a consultant musculoskeletal, sports and exercise physician (SEM) and includes a GPSI, specialist physiotherapists and podiatrists, community physiotherapists, nursing and pain management specialists.

Improved Pathway and Referral

Extensive work has been undertaken to develop an improved pathway which will ensure that once referred the patient is seen by the most appropriate clinician. This comprehensive service will reduce the number of operations needed.

The pathway was developed following an engagement event with various stakeholders including local GPs, clinicians and patients and it now reflects true integration for all community musculoskeletal services.

Treatment and Care

The new service will offer treatment based on the most up to date evidence and research.

Modern “adjunct” treatments such as **dry needling** and **ultrasound guided injections** will also be available to patients identified as benefitting from these therapies. In addition shock wave therapy may also be considered for some patients.

When necessary, patients will be referred to an appropriate secondary care consultant in close liaison with the MICATS service.

Training and Development

MICATS aims to work closely with similar departments in South Staffordshire to develop a teaching and research network to link their SEM consultants, rheumatologists and secondary care consultant based at our hubs.

The West Midland Deanery has already indicated their interest in establishing the Department as the training centre for trainees in Sport and Exercise Medicine in the West Midlands which would bring many additional benefits to our community.

Contact Information:

MICATS Service Manager: Karen Dawson
Karen.dawson2@ssotp.nhs.uk

Fact Sheet

What Our Patients Say about MICATS:

"I was made to feel like an individual. After suffering for so long I feel there is light at the end of the tunnel."

Miss McCann, Cheslyn Hay

MICATS Referrals

Referrals should be arranged through choose & book or emailed to:

apptbookingcentre.ssotp@nhs.net

Electronic referrals will ensure the patient's pathway is seamless and will make the appointment booking process far more efficient.

The Appointment Booking Centre is based at:

The Grove, Cannock Chase Hospital
Brunswick Road, Cannock, WS11 5XY

Tel: 01543 509770

Fax: 01782 828588

MICATS queries or concerns;

MICATS-information@ssotp.nhs.uk

Non MICATS referrals;

Continence Team – Springfield's Health and Wellbeing Centre, Lovett Court Rugeley, WS15 2FH. Tel: 01889 578954

Stroke Team – Tel: 0300 124 0107 Fax: 01782 652738

Respiratory team – Stafford – fax: 01785 221013
Cannock – fax: 01543 465116

Domiciliary team (home visits) –

Stafford; Stone Rehabilitation centre – fax: 01785 817284

Cannock; Intermediate Care Team – fax: 01543 576848

Suspected Rheumatology patients are to be referred directly to secondary care by the GP.

MICATS – My experience

"For many years I have been suffering with shoulder pain on my right hand side and a feeling that my shoulder was out of position.

"At a recent triage appointment with MICATS service I felt the level of service I received from the team was the best I have ever had.

"The Extended Scope Physiotherapist took the time to get a complete history and was very patient too. He explained to me where he felt the problems lay and worked with me to find some exercises that enabled me to strengthen my muscles in a good posture and explained why this is important.

"I was made to feel like an individual which was lovely to experience after suffering for so long. I felt that there was light at the end of the tunnel."

