

## Blandford - Self-Referral to Physiotherapy

Physiotherapists have skill in the assessment and treatment of injuries and conditions that affect muscles, joints and soft tissues such as low back pain, shoulder pain, neck pain, recent injuries or joint and muscular pain.

If you are suffering with a similar condition, and would like to see a physiotherapist for an assessment please complete the attached referral form.

- You must be registered with **Eagle House Surgery, Whitecliff Surgery**
- You must be 16 or over
- This service is NOT available for neurological, gynaecological or respiratory condition. Your GP or nurse practitioner will refer you with a letter in their usual way.
- Treatment after a recent operation: Please ask your consultant to refer to us which will include all required information

If you have any concerns you can always be referred to physiotherapy in the usual way with a letter from your GP, Consultant or Nurse.

Please send this self-referral form to:

**Post: Physiotherapy Department  
Blandford Community Hospital  
Milldown Road  
Blandford Forum  
Dorset  
DT11 7DD**

**email: [dhc.blandford.physio@nhs.net](mailto:dhc.blandford.physio@nhs.net)**

**By hand: Main Reception**

### What will happen next?

A physiotherapist will look at your form to decide how soon we will need to see you. We have urgent, soon and routine appointments. Your appointment may be 30-45 minutes, however you may be offered a shorter appointment in our 'Rapid Assessment Clinic' in order to commence your assessment and treatment plan as soon as possible.

We will contact you as soon as we can to arrange an appointment using the details you have provided on the form, so please ensure these are correct.

**Please see over the page for advice on how to manage the problem in the meantime**

## What can I do to help myself in the meantime?

Research has shown that resting for more than a day or so does not help with problems such as back pain and may actually prolong pain and disability. You may need to modify your activities initially, but the sooner you get back to normal activity the sooner you will feel better.

Initially moving stiff joints and muscles can be painful, but this is a normal response and not a sign of damage. Feeling a bit sore initially is also normal and often a good sign that you are making progress. Gentle movements of the joints/muscles will help to prevent continued pain and stiffness.

Changing your position or activity frequently throughout the day will help to prevent and reduce stiffness. Try to build up your general activity gradually.

## Hot or Cold?

If you have a recent injury (less than 72 hours) you may benefit from a pack of frozen peas or ice wrapped in a damp towel for 10 – 20 minutes. This may help to reduce any heat/swelling.

If you have an old injury or recurring problem you may find that holding a hot water bottle wrapped in a towel on the affected area for 10 – 20 minutes reduces pain. Movement of the affected area will aid in preventing stiffness and pain.

NB: Be aware that hot and cold can BURN and that you need to check (every 5 minutes) that your skin does not become very red or blotchy. If this happens **STOP** immediately.

## Painkillers

'Over the counter' painkillers can be helpful. A pharmacist will be able to advise you on the appropriate tablets. If your symptoms worsen you may wish to see your GP.

## Further Information

The following websites contain some information you may find useful to help your recovery

Some useful exercises for a variety of conditions

<https://www.csp.org.uk/tags/patient-information-leaflets>

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/symptoms-and-self-help>

<https://www.versusarthritis.org/about-arthritis/managing-symptoms/exercise/>

Some tips and guidance on Physical activity with 'Fitness Studio' videos/tutorials

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/exercise/>

Advice to support your recovery with advice on health and wellbeing

<https://www.livewell-dorset.co.uk/>

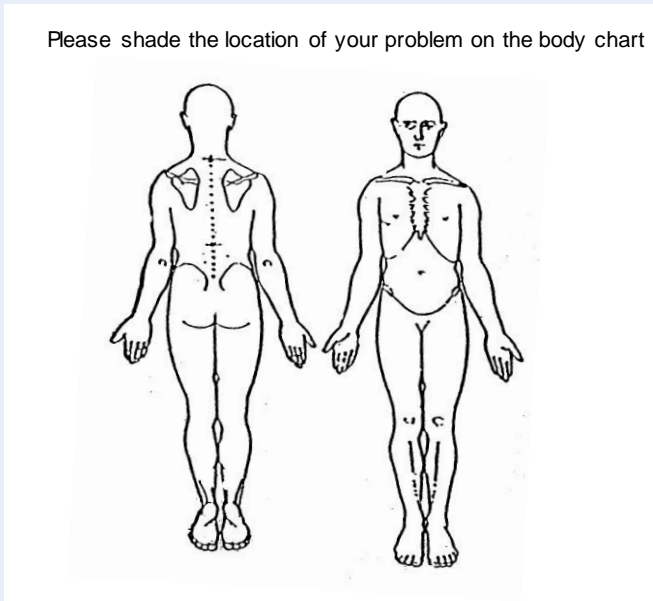
Some useful information if you have longstanding pain

<https://www.paintoolkit.org/>

Please Complete in **BLACK INK** – **FOR PATIENTS OF EAGLE HOUSE and WHITECLIFF SURGERY ONLY**

Full Name	Today's date	Have you seen your GP about this problem? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> When? <input type="text"/>	
	Date of birth (NB this service is not for under 16s)		How long have you had this problem? <input type="text"/>
	Your GP's name		What treatment have you had for this problem before? E.g. exercise, osteopathy <input type="text"/>
	Your GP's surgery		
Address	Your NHS Number (if known)	Are your symptoms worsening? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Your Phone numbers – Can we leave a message at these numbers?		
	Phone no. (home) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Phone no. (work) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Are you able to carry out your normal activities? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Phone no. (mobile) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Do you require an interpreter? No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> If yes, which language? <input type="text"/>		
		Are you off work/unable to care for a dependent because of this problem? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/>	

Please give a brief description of what the main problem is:

Please mark level of pain on the scale below

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

No Pain Worst Possible

IF YOUR PROBLEM IS SCIATICA and you have also found that you are struggling to empty your bladder, are losing bowel control, and cannot feel when you are wiping yourself after going to the toilet, then you should mention this urgently to your GP or attend the Accident and Emergency Department

Have you suddenly lost any weight without trying?  
Yes  No  If yes, please give details

Have you had any other symptoms, such as numbness, tingling or muscle weakness?  
Yes  No  If yes, please give details

Please complete this referral form in **BLACK INK** and return to:

Post:	<b>Physiotherapy Department Blandford Community Hospital Milldown Road Blandford DT11 7DD</b>	Email:	<b><a href="mailto:dhc.blandford.physio@nhs.net">dhc.blandford.physio@nhs.net</a></b>
		By hand:	<b>Main Reception, Blandford Hospital</b>