

MSK Imaging Referrals: What Goes Where

Effective 17 November 2025 — MRI is no longer directly accessible via Primary Care for MSK conditions

Patients presenting to General Practice with MSK-related conditions that are assessed as needing further MSK support, should be referred to the MSK SPoA, where the clinical team will assess, treat, and, if clinically indicated, request imaging. If patients or clinicians are expecting an MRI, please be very clear to the patient that this may or may not be done, with the decision based on the assessment undertaken by the SPoA clinician.

Referrals to the MSK SPoA should be made for access to specialist MSK assessment and treatment, rather than referrals for diagnostics only. The MSK SPoA will provide the gateway onto all specialist MSK services if required following initial management and completion of requisite imaging. These services include Pain, Orthopaedics, Rheumatology and Spinal Neurosurgery.

Requesting X-ray, MSK Ultrasound & MSK MRI

Test	Who can request	Route
X-ray	GP, if clinically indicated	Direct from primary care to local Trust
Routine MSK and routine general and gynaecology ultrasound (>18 years old)	GP	Cora Health
Urgent MSK ultrasound (all ages) Routine MSK ultrasound (<18years)	GP	BHRUT via bhrut.gpusrequests@nhs.net
Ultrasound guided MSK procedures	GP	BHRUT via bhrut.us-guidedinjections@nhs.net
MSK MRI	Community MSK team only, after assessment	Via Community MSK and the SPoA

X Don't refer to the MSK SPoA just to request imaging — these referrals will be returned.