

Oxford Centre for Enablement (OCE)
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Referral Criteria for Outpatient Physiotherapy

Inclusion

- Confirmed diagnosis of a **neurological condition**.
- Geography: we accept referrals for people living in Oxfordshire. Where there is no local appropriate service, we will consider out of area referrals.
- If **Functional Neurological Disorder (FND)** is suspected the diagnosis must be confirmed by a Neurologist. We accept referrals for individuals with motor impairments as their primary concern.
- **Aged 16+** (service suitability for individuals aged 16 to 18 are discussed on a case-by-case basis as they must be treated in a private room and attend with a guardian).
- Consent and agree to attend the OCE outpatient department.
- **Clear rehabilitation goals** that can be met in an outpatient setting and require neuro-specific physiotherapy input.
- If referring to Functional Electrical Stimulation (FES) Clinic, see criteria on following page.
- We accept referrals from GPs, Consultant Neurologists, nurses and Allied Health Professionals working within the NHS or Social Care.

Exclusion

- Unable to attend outpatient appointments.
- Needs best met by a community service.
- If the main concern is related to a musculoskeletal (MSK) condition please refer to local MSK service (i.e. Connect Health in Oxfordshire).
- Anyone requiring orthotics-only intervention as there is a dedicated [orthotics service](#).
- We do not accept self-referrals or referrals from private clinicians.
- Conditions not appropriate*
 - Cervical myelopathy
 - Peripheral neuropathies
 - Neuropathies related to diabetes
 - Cauda Equina

- Primary diagnosis of Alzheimer's or dementia or small vessel disease

*If you feel that the individual requires neuro-specific outpatient physiotherapy for the following conditions please contact us directly to discuss on a case-by-case basis before sending the referral.

For people with community-based neuro-physiotherapy needs, please consider referring to:

[Physical Disability Physiotherapy Service \(PDPS\) - Oxford Health](#)

Prioritisation

- Referrals will be placed on the waiting list and picked up chronologically. Occasionally we may prioritise referrals for the following reasons:
- Individuals awaiting active management after botulinum toxin injections.
- Individuals who have experienced a significant deterioration in their condition and mobility, where their safety at home is at risk.
- If you feel the referral needs urgent attention, please make your reasons for this clear and we will endeavour to prioritise the referral.

Referral criteria for FES Clinic

- GP within Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, and Berkshire West Integrated Care System (BOB ICS).
- Foot drop due to upper motor neurone lesion (brain or spinal cord injury at or above T12). Foot drop significantly affects walking and evident during gait.
- No significant contracture or shortening at the ankle beyond plantar grade.
- Able to move from sitting to standing independently.
- Able to walk at least 10 metres without rest, with or without an aid.
- Walking is the main form of mobility indoors; not a wheelchair user indoors.
- Patient (or supportive family member) is able to self-manage the use and application of FES: understand the aims of treatment, be able to operate the device and adjust / review the effectiveness and recognise problems that require review by the physiotherapist.

Precautions to consider before referral

Active medical implants such as cardiac pacemakers or other devices must be treated with caution and information sought from the device supplier about the use of electrical stimulation in their presence. We do not accept referrals for patients with a cardiac pacemaker.

Poorly controlled epilepsy or seizures. FES can be trialled with agreement from a Neurologist, where seizures are well controlled.