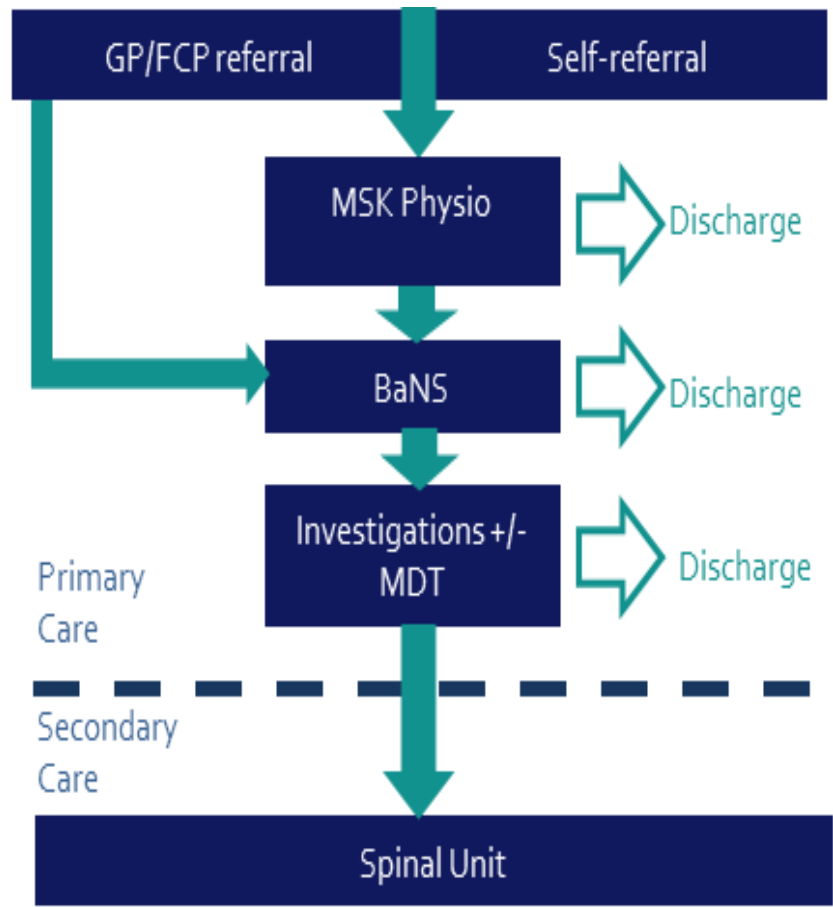


AHP Suffolk Back and Neck Service – Delivered in partnership with Ipswich Hospital Spinal Unit and Ipswich and West Suffolk Hospital Pain Services



Background

The Back and Neck Service (BaNS) was established in 2003 with the aim of reducing unnecessary secondary care spinal referrals in Suffolk. Referral criteria into the service are radiating symptoms (>6/52 duration) and/ or axial symptoms that have failed to improve with appropriate primary care intervention.

Community-based service

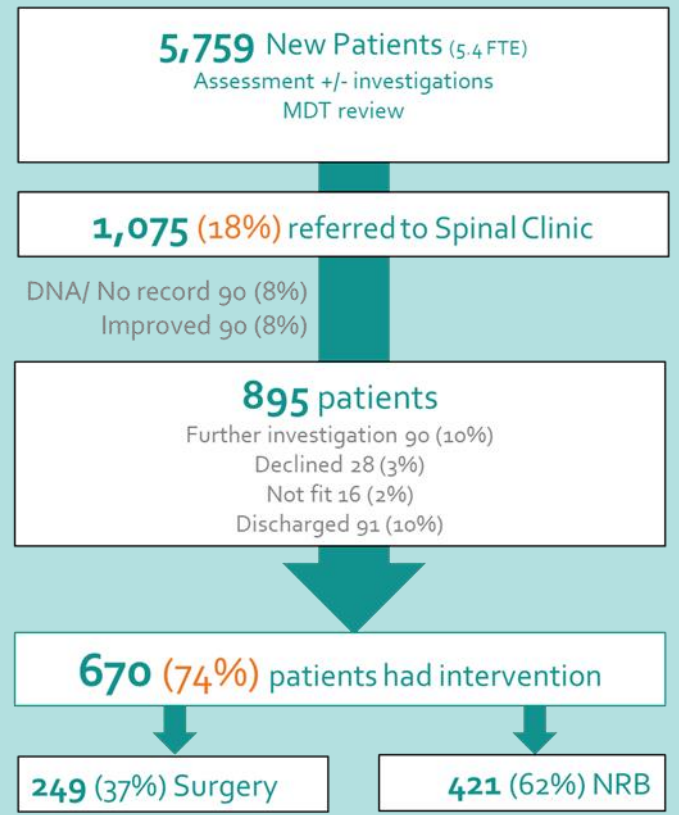
Since its inception the service has expanded and now consists of six, community based, advanced practice spinal physiotherapists, co-located and integrated within the MSK community physiotherapy service.

Partnership working

The service provides advanced assessment including MRI & diagnostics and onward referral as appropriate following virtual MDT meetings with Spinal and Pain management consultants. As a result, onward secondary care referrals are optimised improving conversion rates, collaborative care planning and accountability in keeping with GIRFT principles and recommendations for spinal services.

Service Data

The results of a 12-month, retrospective service evaluation (2018-2019) were presented at Physiotherapy UK in 2019 with the following findings:



Post-pandemic Data

Due to Covid delays in radiology (imaging & reporting) and secondary care interventions, current outcome data is more difficult to obtain, however from a recent review of September-to November 2021, the BaNS referred 11% of total patients seen into the spinal unit, with a conversion rate of 78% (175 patients, 19% discharged at 1st appointment, 135 interventions).