

Supporting employees with musculoskeletal conditions

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In this guide:

Making adjustments - top tips	4
Introduction	5
What are musculoskeletal conditions?	6
Employment and people with musculoskeletal conditions	9
Reducing the prevalence of musculoskeletal conditions	10
Adjustments at every stage	12
Retaining employees	13
About us	14

Making adjustments – top tips



Always talk to the person – find out what they have difficulties doing.

Ensure that colleagues who have adjustments in place have access to the same career opportunities.

Focus on removing barriers, not on a person's disability or condition.

Regularly review adjustments in place.

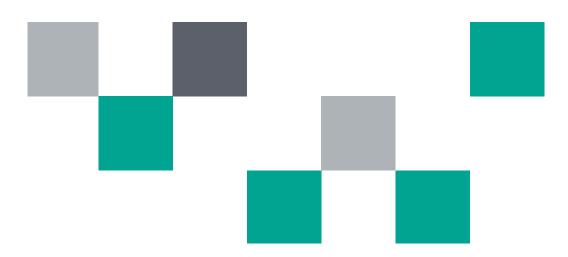
Do not make assumptions on what a person can or cannot do.

Implement adjustments as early as possible in the recruitment process.

Different people need different types of adjustments, even when they have similar conditions.

Be flexible - focus on what needs to be achieved, not on how to achieve it.

Introduction



What are musculoskeletal conditions?

Musculoskeletal conditions affect the joints or tissues in the back (upper and lumbar region), upper limbs (neck, shoulders, arms, elbows, wrists, hands and fingers) or lower limbs (hip, knees and legs, ankles and feet) resulting from injuries or health conditions. Symptoms include muscle fatigue, pain, cramp, swelling, numbness, difficulty in movement and general discomfort. These can persist or become worse after work, not just when performing specific tasks.

Many musculoskeletal conditions are the results of lifestyle or medical conditions such as rheumatoid arthritis. It is also possible for people to acquire musculoskeletal conditions because of the work they are doing.

Many cases will resolve without medical attention whilst others will require a doctor's support; in some cases, referral to an expert will be necessary. There are a variety of conditions and in some cases pain is referred from the site of the initial problem to another part of the body. Different conditions require different types of treatment, adjustments and management approaches.

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