

## BOB ICB and Frimley ICB Priorities Committee Clinical Commissioning Policy Statement

<b>Policy Number/ Name</b>	BOBFPC76 Arthroscopic Knee Surgery for Meniscal Tears (Reviewed in light of Evidence-based Intervention (EBI) guidance)
<b>Date of BOB ICB Adoption</b>	March 2024

- In cases where a twisting injury has resulted in an acute locked knee (i.e. with a fixed flexion deformity) with a likely clinical diagnosis of a bucket handle meniscal tear, arthroscopic surgery will be funded and should be performed on an urgent basis. An MRI scan is not essential if it will delay treatment.
- In cases where the knee is not locked, and regardless of whether there is a clear history of injury, the diagnosis of a meniscal tear should be made with an MRI scan. An MRI is not recommended for a suspected degenerative meniscal tear unless there are mechanical symptoms (e.g. locking) or lack of improvement with conservative treatment. Funding for arthroscopic surgery will be considered after 3 months of unresolved symptoms. Conservative treatments undertaken during this period, such as non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), physiotherapy and exercise, are not a pre-requisite for funding.
- Arthroscopic surgery for meniscal tears in the degenerate knee, where there is full thickness cartilage loss on both sides of the respective compartment as evidenced by radiological imaging, is not normally funded. This is due to lack of evidence of positive long-term outcomes over conservative treatment.

Further information for patients and carers can be found here:

<https://www.aomrc.org.uk/ebi/patients-and-carers/> 'Arthroscopic surgery for meniscal tears'.

This policy is in line with NHS Evidence based intervention list 2 guidance and British Association for Surgery of the Knee (BASK) guidelines.

See also:

Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, and Berkshire West ICB and Frimley ICB Priorities Committee Commissioning Policy Statement Policy No. BOBFPC83 Anterior Cruciate Ligament (ACL) reconstruction.  
Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, and Berkshire West ICB and Frimley ICB Priorities Committee Commissioning Policy Statement No. BOBFPC6 Arthroscopic lavage and debridement for patients with osteoarthritis of the knee

**ICD10 Diagnosis Codes:**

M23.2 Derangement of meniscus due to old tear or injury

M23.3 Other meniscus derangements including degenerate, detached and retained meniscus  
S83.2 Tear of meniscus

**OPCS4 Procedure Codes:**

W82.1 Endoscopic total excision of semilunar cartilage  
W82.2 Endoscopic resection of semilunar cartilage NEC  
W82.3 Endoscopic repair of semilunar cartilage  
W82.8 Other specified therapeutic endoscopic operations on semilunar cartilage  
W82.9 Unspecified therapeutic endoscopic operations on semilunar cartilage

With

Y76.7 Arthroscopic approach to joint

W85.1 Endoscopic removal of loose body from knee joint  
W85.2 Endoscopic irrigation of knee joint (including lavage and washout)  
W85.8 Other specified therapeutic endoscopic operations on cavity of knee joint

With

Y76.7 Arthroscopic approach to joint

W80.1 Open debridement and irrigation of joint or  
W80.2 Open debridement of joint NEC or  
W80.3 Open irrigation of joint NEC or  
W80.8 Other specified debridement and irrigation of joint or  
W80.9 Unspecified debridement and irrigation of joint

With

Y76.7 Arthroscopic approach to joint

And

Z84.6 Knee joint

W70.1 Open total excision of semilunar cartilage or  
W70.2 Open excision of semilunar cartilage NEC (includes open excision of lesion of semilunar cartilage) or W70.3 Open repair of semilunar cartilage or  
W70.8 Other specified open operations on semilunar cartilage or  
W70.9 Unspecified open operations on semilunar cartilage

With

Y76.7 Arthroscopic approach to joint

**NOTES:**

- Potentially exceptional circumstances may be considered by a patient's ICB where there is evidence of significant health status impairment (e.g. inability to perform activities of daily living) and there is evidence that the intervention sought would improve the individual's health status.
- This policy was developed and recommended by Thames Valley Priorities Committee which was the predecessor of Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, and Berkshire West ICB and Frimley ICB Priorities Committee.
- This policy will be reviewed in the light of new evidence or new national guidance, e.g., from NICE.
- BOBFPC clinical policies can be viewed at [Clinical Commissioning Policy Statements & IFRs | BOB ICB](#)

<b>Recommendation made by TVPC</b>	January 2018 January 2020 November 2020 July 2021
<b>Date adopted and issued by OCCG</b>	April 2018 June 2020 February 2021 September 2021
<b>Date of BOB ICB adoption</b>	March 2024 – reformatted and rebadged only