

BOB ICB and Frimley ICB Priorities Committee Clinical Commissioning Policy Statement

Policy Number/ Name	BOBFPC6 Arthroscopic Lavage and Debridement for Patients with Osteoarthritis of the Knee
Date of BOBFPC Recommendation	February 2024

The Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, and Berkshire West ICB and Frimley ICB Priorities Committee has considered the evidence for treatment of osteoarthritis of the knee as per the [NICE Clinical Guideline 177 Osteoarthritis: Care and management in adults](#) and recommends that arthroscopic lavage and debridement for patients with osteoarthritis of the knee is **NOT NORMALLY FUNDED**.

Do not refer for arthroscopic lavage and debridement as part of treatment for osteoarthritis of the knee, unless the person has knee osteoarthritis with a clear history of mechanical locking (as opposed to morning joint stiffness, 'giving way' or X-ray evidence of loose bodies).

This statement is in line with the NHS Evidence-Based Intervention Programme. Resources for patients and clinicians can be found at <https://www.aomrc.org.uk/ebi/>

Coding for arthroscopic knee washout, with or without debridement, for the treatment of osteoarthritis

SNOMED CT preferred term (concept ID)

Arthroscopic washout of knee joint (179392006)

Arthroscopic debridement of knee joint (309438003)

OPCS-4 code(s):

The code will be dependent on what has been carried out. Codes available are:

W85.1 Endoscopic removal of loose body from knee joint

W85.2 Endoscopic irrigation of knee joint

A code from category W80.- Debridement and irrigation of joint plus Y76.7 Arthroscopic approach to joint plus Z84.6 Knee joint

W85.8 Other specified therapeutic endoscopic operations on cavity of knee Joint

W83.3 Endoscopic shaving of articular cartilage plus Z84.6 Knee joint

W82.2 Endoscopic resection of semilunar cartilage NEC

Note: Where both irrigation and removal of loose bodies are performed during the same procedure, then it is only necessary to record W85.1 Endoscopic removal of loose body from knee joint

Diagnosis or health condition:

SNOMED CT preferred term (concept ID)

Osteoarthritis of knee (239873007)

ICD-10 code(s):

M17.- Gonarthrosis [arthrosis of knee]

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 policy statements can be viewed at [Clinical Commissioning Policy Statements & IFRs | BOB ICB](#)