

BOB ICB and Frimley ICB Priorities Committee Clinical Commissioning Policy Statement

Policy Number/ Name	BOBFPC76 Arthroscopic Knee Surgery for Meniscal Tears (Reviewed in light of Evidence-based Intervention (EBI) guidance)
Date of BOB ICB Adoption	February 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](#)

Recommendation made by TVPC	January 2018 January 2020 November 2020 July 2021
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