

Pathway	
	Arthroscopic Decompression for Subacromial Shoulder Pain
Commissioned	
	Arthroscopic subacromial decompression for pure subacromial shoulder impingement should only offered for patients who have persistent or progressive symptoms, in spite of adequate non-operative treatment.
Notes	
	<i>Pure subacromial shoulder impingement</i> means subacromial pain not caused by associated diagnoses such as rotator cuff tears, acromio-clavicular joint pain, or calcific tendinopathy.
Rationale	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Evidence-Based Interventions: Response to the public consultation and next steps. Published by NHS England in partnership with NHS Clinical Commissioners, the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges, NHS Improvement and the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence November 2018. ▪ Arthroscopic sub-acromial decompression is a surgical procedure that involves decompressing the sub-acromial space by removing bone spurs and soft tissue arthroscopically. ▪ Non-operative treatment such as physiotherapy and exercise programmes are effective and safe in many cases. ▪ For patients who have persistent or progressive symptoms, in spite of adequate non-operative treatment, surgery should be considered. ▪ The latest evidence for the potential benefits and risks of subacromial shoulder decompression surgery should be discussed with the patient and a shared decision reached between surgeon and patient as to whether to proceed with surgical intervention. ▪ Risks associated with arthroscopic sub-acromial decompression are low but include infection, frozen shoulder, ongoing pain, potential damage to blood vessels or nerves and those associated with having a general anaesthetic.
Cohort	
	Adults.
Equality	
	Compliant with the Equality Act 2010.
Status	
	AMBER as defined in the Prior Approval Scheme Policy.
OPCS codes	

Endoscopic decompression of joint	W84.4
With location code:	
Rotator cuff of shoulder	Z54.2
Version History	
New policy.	
Authorised	
April 2019	
Review	
April 2024 Earlier if new evidence published by NICE or other authoritative body.	