

Pathway	
	Therapeutic arthroscopy of the knee joint.
Commissioned	
	<p>Knee arthroscopy causing <i>significant functional impairment</i> will be funded after confirmation by suitable imaging for the following indications:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Removal of loose body 2. Repair or resection of meniscus 3. Repair of chondral defects 4. Ligament reconstruction or repair 5. Lateral release of the patella 6. Synovectomy 7. Treatment of symptomatic plica
Not Funded	
	<p>Knee arthroscopy for the following indications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As a diagnostic procedure for the investigation of knee pain unless MRI is required but contraindicated. • Arthroscopic washout and debridement in osteoarthritis.
Notes	
	<p>Significant functional impairment means severe restriction in most of the following activities of daily living</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Personal care (dressing, grooming, washing and toileting) b) Functional mobility (required to perform routine activities in the home or at work) c) Meeting nutritional needs (preparing and eating food)
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. ▪ MRI is a less invasive alternative to arthroscopy for the investigation of knee pain. ▪ NICE CG177 February 2014, Osteoarthritis: care and management, recommendation 1.4.10 “Do not refer for arthroscopic lavage and debridement as part of treatment for osteoarthritis, unless the person has knee osteoarthritis with a clear history of mechanical locking, 'giving way' or X-ray evidence of loose bodies.”
Cohort	
	Children and Adults.
Equality	
	Compliant with the Equality Act 2010.
Status	

RED as defined in the Prior Approval Scheme Policy.

OPCS codes

Reconstruction of intra-articular ligament NEC (with Z84.6 Knee joint)	W74.2
Endoscopic total excision of semilunar cartilage	W82.1
Endoscopic resection of semilunar cartilage NEC	W82.2
Endoscopic repair of semilunar cartilage	W82.3
Endoscopic drilling of lesion of articular cartilage (with Z84.6 Knee joint)	W83.1
Endoscopic fixation of lesion of articular cartilage (with Z84.6 Knee joint)	W83.2
Endoscopic shaving of articular cartilage (with Z84.6 Knee joint)	W83.3
Endoscopic articular abrasion chondroplasty (with Z84.6 Knee joint)	W83.4
Endoscopic articular thermal chondroplasty (with Z84.6 Knee joint)	W83.5
Endoscopic repair of intra-articular ligament (with Z84.6 Knee joint)	W84.1
Endoscopic reattachment of intra-articular ligament (with Z84.6 Knee joint)	W84.2
Endoscopic division of synovial plica (with Z84.6 Knee joint)	W84.3
Endoscopic decompression of joint (with Z84.6 Knee joint)	W84.4
Endoscopic drilling of epiphysis for repair of articular cartilage (with Z84.6 Knee joint)	W84.5
Endoscopic excision of synovial plica (with Z84.6 Knee joint)	W84.6
Endoscopic repair of superior labrum anterior to posterior tear (with Z84.6 Knee joint)	W84.7
Endoscopic removal of loose body from knee joint	W85.1
Diagnostic endoscopic examination of knee joint (valid if MRI contraindicated)	W87

Version History

Policy now defines the circumstances under which therapeutic knee arthroscopy will be funded.
Diagnostic knee arthroscopy will now only be funded if MRI is contraindicated.

Authorised

April 2019

Arthroscopy Review

April 2024

Earlier if new evidence published by NICE or other authoritative body.