

Pathway	
	Primary total knee joint replacement.
Exclusions	
	Knee joint revision surgery.
Commissioned	
	<p>Primary total knee joint replacement will only be funded in patients who meet ALL the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. They have one of the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) an Oxford Knee Score less than 26 b) significant valgus or varus deformity of the affected leg 2. Radiographic changes are consistent with moderate or severe joint osteoarthritis. 3. They are medically fit for surgery with optimum management of any major medical co-morbidity. 4. The patient is prepared to consider surgery and undertake this within an 18-week timeframe.
Rationale	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The most common indication for elective primary total knee replacement is osteoarthritis of the joint. ▪ A small number of patients experience serious complications following elective total knee replacement, therefore patients should not be considered for joint replacement until it can be demonstrated that conservative methods have failed, and their quality of life is significantly affected by the symptoms of pain and reduced mobility. ▪ Conservative management of knee pain due to osteoarthritis should include, where appropriate, weight reduction, activity modification, adequate analgesia, walking aids and physiotherapy. ▪ The Oxford Knee Score was developed to assess functional impairment and pain related to joint arthritis. The questionnaire has been shown to be reproducible, valid and sensitive to clinically important changes. ▪ http://www.orthopaedicscore.com/scorepages/oxford_knee_score.html ▪ Patients with arthritis of the knee who have significant valgus or varus deformity require surgical assessment irrespective of their Oxford Knee Score as this group carry a higher risk of complications if joint replacement is delayed.
Cohort	
	Adults.
Equality	
	Compliant with the Equality Act 2010.
Status	
	RED as defined in the Prior Approval Scheme Policy.
OPCS codes	

Primary total prosthetic replacement of knee joint using cement	W40.1
Primary total prosthetic replacement of knee joint not using cement	W41.1
Primary total prosthetic replacement of knee joint NEC	W42.1
Version History	
No material changes from previous version.	
Authorised	
April 2019	
Review	
April 2024 Earlier if new evidence published by NICE or other authoritative body.	