

Thames Valley Priorities Committee Commissioning Policy Statement

Policy No. TVPC6 **Arthroscopic lavage and debridement for patients with osteoarthritis of the knee**

Recommendation made by the Priorities Committee: **May 2014/ Updated July 2018¹; May 2021²**

Date of issue: **August 2021**

The Thames Valley 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 is a **NOT NORMALLY FUNDED** treatment.

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 (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/>

NOTES:

- Potentially exceptional circumstances may be considered by a patient's CCG 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 will be reviewed in the light of new evidence or new national guidance, e.g. from NICE.
- Thames Valley clinical policies can be viewed at <http://www.fundingrequests.cscsu.nhs.uk/>

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

¹ No updates have been made to this policy.

² A link to the evidence-based intervention programme has been added to provide information to patients, carers and clinicians no further changes were made.

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]