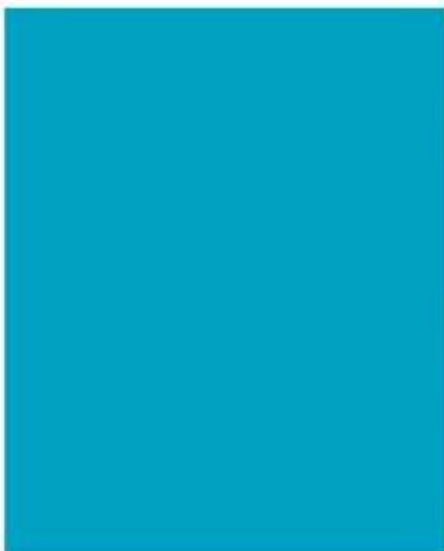


Interim Clinical Commissioning
Policy: Knee washout and
debridement

Agreed: November 2013

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Interim Clinical Commissioning Policy

Knee washout and debridement

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Policy Statement

NHS England will commission Knee washout and debridement in accordance with the criteria outlined in this document.

In creating this policy NHS England has reviewed this clinical condition and the options for its treatment. It has considered the place of this treatment in current clinical practice, whether scientific research has shown the treatment to be of benefit to patients, (including how any benefit is balanced against possible risks) and whether its use represents the best use of NHS resources.

This policy document outlines the arrangements for funding of this treatment for patients where NHS England directly commissions this service.

Equality Statement

NHS England has a duty to have regard to the need to reduce health inequalities in access to health services and health outcomes achieved as enshrined in the Health and Social Care Act 2012. NHS England is committed to ensuring equality of access and non-discrimination, irrespective of age, gender, disability (including learning disability), gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex (gender) or sexual orientation. In carrying out its functions, NHS England will have due regard to the different needs of protected equality groups, in line with the Equality Act 2010. This document is compliant with the NHS Constitution and the Human Rights Act 1998. This applies to all activities for which they are responsible, including policy development, review and implementation.

Plain Language Summary

A knee washout involves flushing the knee joint with fluid, which is introduced through small incisions in the knee. The procedure is often done with debridement, which is the removal of loose debris around the joint.

1. Introduction

Knee washout and debridement is regarded as a procedure of low clinical priority and therefore not routinely funded by the Commissioner.

2. Criteria for commissioning

NHS England will fund when the patient has mechanical features of true locking

NHS England will not fund for symptoms of 'giving way' or x-ray evidence of loose bodies without true locking.

The clinician proposing this intervention will make the decision to treat based on the criteria set out above.

If the patient does not fully meet this criteria the clinician may submit an application for exceptional funding

(Individual funding request policy, application form and contact details on NHS Internet – <http://www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/d-com/policies/gp/>

An annual audit will be completed to confirm that patients have been treated in accordance with these criteria.

3. Evidence Base

This procedure is considered to be of limited clinical value