

HIP REPLACEMENT SURGERY
Including referral for Surgical Assessment of Osteoarthritis
CRITERIA BASED ACCESS (CBA) POLICY

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Application Form	EBI Generic application form if appropriate to apply

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Section	Contents	Page
	Version Control	1
1	General Principles	2
2	Policy Criteria	3/6
3	Background	6/7
4	Evidence Based Interventions Application Process	6
5	Access To Policy	7
6	References	7
Appendix 1	Classification of Pain Level and Functional Impairment	8

VERSION CONTROL

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DOCUMENT CHANGE HISTORY

Version	Date	Comments
1617.v5	July 2017	Change CSU template to SCCG heading
1617.v6	Jan 2019	SCCG template, inclusion of chart on pain/FI, inclusion of clinical info, BMI change from 35 to 30, replace IFR with EBI
1819.v7	May 2019	Inclusion of Classification of Pain Level and Functional Impairment

Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Form OR EIA Screening Form completed. Date:	03 May 2016
Quality Impact Assessment QIA. Date:	March 2018
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1 GENERAL PRINCIPLES (CBA)

- 1.1 Treatment should only be given in line with these general principles. Where patients are unable to meet these principles, in addition to the specific treatment criteria set out in this policy, funding approval may be sought from the CCG's Evidence Based Interventions (EBI) Panel by submission of an EBI application
- 1.2 Clinicians should assess their patients against the criteria within this policy prior to a referral and/or treatment
- 1.3 Treatment should only be undertaken where the criteria have been met and there is evidence that the treatment requested is effective and the patient has the potential to benefit from the proposed treatment. Where the patient has previously been provided with the treatment with limited or diminishing benefit, it is unlikely that they will qualify for further treatment
- 1.4 Referring patients to secondary care without them meeting the criteria or funding approval having been secured not only incurs significant costs in out-patient appointments for patients that may not qualify for surgery, but inappropriately raises the patient's expectation of treatment
- 1.5 On limited occasions, the CCG may approve funding for an assessment only in order to confirm or obtain evidence demonstrating whether a patient meets the criteria for funding. In such cases, patients should be made aware that the assessment does not mean that they will be provided with surgery and surgery will only be provided where it can be demonstrated that the patients meets the criteria to access treatment in this policy
- 1.6 Patients should be advised being referred does not confirm that they will receive treatment or surgery for a condition as a consent discussion will need to be undertaken with a clinician prior to treatment
- 1.7 The CCG does not commission surgery for cosmetic purposes alone
- 1.8 The policy does not apply to patients with suspected malignancy who should continue to be referred under 2 week wait pathway rules for assessment and testing as appropriate
- 1.9 Patients who are smokers should be referred to smoking cessation services in order to reduce the risk of surgery and improve healing

2 POLICY CRITERIA BASED ACCESS

- 2.1 Hip replacement surgery including referral for surgical assessment of osteoarthritis is not routinely funded by the CCG and is subject to this restricted policy

2.2 Please refer to Appendix 1 page 8 for Classification of Pain Level and Functional Impairment)

Clinician’s Guide: When and Where to Refer

Pain	Functional Impairment	Minor	Moderate	Severe
Slight		Manage Conservatively in Primary Care – do not refer without funding approval	Manage Conservatively in Primary Care – do not refer without funding approval	Consider a referral to MSK for further conservative management and advice MSK to manage conservatively
Moderate		Manage Conservatively in Primary Care – do not refer without funding approval	Manage conservatively in Primary Care for 3 months prior to referral to MSK if no improvement	Consider a referral to MSK for further conservative management and advice MSK to manage conservatively
Intense		Consider a referral to MSK for further conservative management and advice MSK to manage conservatively	MSK Review and where appropriate referral to Secondary Care	MSK Review and where appropriate referral to Secondary Care
Severe		Consider a referral to MSK for further conservative management and advice MSK to manage conservatively	MSK Review and where appropriate referral to Secondary Care	Consider referral immediately if risk of losing mobility

2.3 GPs establish patient compliance to the criteria, with the compliance being confirmed in the Orthopaedic Assessment Services

2.4 Ensure all patients receive appropriate Core interventions before referral to Orthopaedic Assessment Services and secondary care/surgery

2.5 Offer advice on the following core treatments to all people with clinical osteoarthritis;

- Access to appropriate information
- Activity and exercise
- Interventions to achieve weight loss if the person is overweight or obese
- Escape Pain <http://www.escape-pain.org/>

2.6 Patients with an elevated BMI of 30 or more are likely to receive fewer benefits from surgery and should be encouraged to lose weight prior to seeking surgery

2.6.1 In addition, the risks of surgery are significantly increased. Weight loss

should be maximised prior to referral to Orthopaedic Assessment Services

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg189/resources/obesity-identification-assessment-and-management-pdf-35109821097925>

- 2.7 All patients referred on to a surgical provider must have confirmation and evidence of compliance with criteria from the Orthopaedic Assessment services otherwise the CCG are not liable for payment
- 2.7.1 The Orthopaedic Assessment Services will assess a patient's suitability for surgery including:
- reference to this policy
 - manage patients conservatively when possible
 - where appropriate refer patients to secondary care for further management of their condition

NICE state in TAG 304

- 2.8 Prostheses for total hip replacement and resurfacing arthroplasty are recommended as treatment options for people with **end-stage arthritis** of the hip only if the prostheses have rates (or projected rates) of revision of 5% or less at 10 years

- 2.8.1 **End-stage arthritis** can be defined as: The point where progressive wearing down of the articular cartilage results in bone-on-bone grinding down of the joint surface. The patient with **end-stage arthritis** has pain combined with a loss of function and mobility, **which severely limits normal activity**

Diagnosis

- 2.8.2 Diagnose osteoarthritis clinically **without investigations** if a person: is 45 or over and has activity-related joint pain and has either no morning joint-related stiffness or morning stiffness that lasts no longer than 30minutes. [new 2014]

NICE guidance cg177

- 2.8.3 NICE have produced a clinical guideline CG177 on care and management of patients with OA and recommends that patients diagnosed with this condition should be "holistically" or conservatively managed (NICE , 2014). <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg177/resources/osteoarthritis-care-and-management-pdf-35109757272517>

This includes:

- access to appropriate information and education including self-management techniques
- activity and exercise
- pain relief with oral analgesics, topical treatments and / or Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDS) and highly selective COX-2 inhibitors

Conservative Measures Must Include All of The Following - As Recommended By NICE:

- 2.9 All patients referred on to a surgical provider must have confirmation and evidence of compliance with criteria from the Orthopaedic Assessment services
- 2.10 Patients have fully engaged with conservative measures for at least **6 months** and this has failed to improve the symptoms for the patient
- 2.11 Weight reduction where appropriate, particularly when the patient has a BMI greater than 30 **AND**
- 2.12 Education and self-management such as elimination of damaging influence on hips, activity modification (avoid impact and excessive exercise) good shock-absorbing shoes **AND**
- 2.13 Non-pharmacological management such as biomechanical interventions, physiotherapy and exercising to improve local muscle strength and general aerobic fitness (Note: Physiotherapy is ineffective in bone on bone osteoarthritis)
- 2.14 Management with medication including oral/topical NSAIDS and paracetamol based analgesics (COX-2 Inhibitor of NSAIDS). Opioid analgesics can be used effectively if paracetamol or NSAIDS are ineffective or poorly tolerated **AND**
- 2.15 Is suffering from joint symptoms (such as stiffness and reduced function) that are refractory to non-surgical treatment **OR**
- 2.16 Is suffering from joint symptoms (such as stiffness and reduced function) which is compromising their mobility to such an extent that they are in immediate danger of losing their independence and joint replacement would relieve this **OR**
- 2.17 Is at risk of destruction of their joint of such severity that delaying surgical correction would increase the technical difficulties of the procedure

Exceptions

- 2.18 The requirement to undergo conservative management does not apply for Immediate / Urgent Referral to Orthopaedic Assessment Services in respect of:
- Evidence of infection in the hip joint
 - Conditions (such as AVN-avascular necrosis) leading to a rapid deterioration in the joint where delay to treatment would be unreasonable

Hip Prostheses Commissioned

- 2.19 The Commissioner will only fund prostheses conforming with NICE guidelines and are ODEP 10A rated, on a trajectory to achieve this rating, or within the ODEP "Beyond Compliance" process

- Hip Prostheses Not Commissioned**
- 2.20 The provision of specialist custom hip prosthesis is not routinely commissioned and surgical Clinicians would need to apply for Individual Funding approval in such circumstances

Setting out why it is proposed to use a custom device and why they are unable to treat with the standard commissioned prosthesis

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 Osteoarthritis of the Hips

The main symptoms of osteoarthritis are pain and stiffness in joints, which can make it difficult to move the affected joints and do certain activities. The symptoms may come and go in episodes, which can be related to things such as activity levels and even the weather. In more severe cases, the symptoms can be continuous. Osteoarthritis in hips often causes difficulty moving hip joints. For example, a patient may find it difficult to put shoes and socks on or to get in and out of a car. Patients will also usually have pain in the groin or outside the hip. This will often be worse when they move their hip joints, although it can also affect them when resting or sleeping

3.2 Diagnosing Osteoarthritis

NICE (TA 304) recommend that a diagnosis of Osteoarthritis may possibly be made if the patient has the following symptoms *:

- 45 years of age or older **AND**
- As joint pain gets worse the more they use their joints **AND**
- Has no stiffness in their joints in the morning, or stiffness that lasts no longer than 30 minutes

- 3.3 While NICE states there is no definitive test to diagnose osteoarthritis weight-bearing plain X-ray and assessment of symptoms and examination of joints will give an accurate diagnosis in the majority of patients with hip OA. In addition, the assessment can include reference to the Oxford Hip Score and pain classification levels such as that referenced below

*but not limited to

4 INDIVIDUAL FUNDING REQUEST APPLICATION PROCESS

- 4.1 Patients who are not eligible for treatment under this policy may be considered on an individual basis where their GP or Consultant believes exceptional circumstances exist that warrant deviation from the rule of this policy
- 4.2 Completion of a **Generic EBI Application Form** by a GP or Consultant may be put forward
- 4.3 Applications cannot be considered from patients personally

4.4 It is expected that clinicians will have ensured that the patient, on behalf of who they are forwarding the application for, is appropriately informed about the existing policies prior to an application to the EBIP. This will reassure the Panel that the patient has a reasonable expectation of the outcome of the application and its context

4.5 EBI applications are reviewed and considered for clinical exceptionality

For further information on 'clinical exceptionality' please refer to the NHS England IFR policy <https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/comm-policy-individual-funding-requests.pdf>

4.6 An application put forward for consideration must demonstrate some unusual or unique clinical factor about the patient that suggests they are exceptional as defined below:

- Significantly different to the general population of patients with the condition in question
- Likely to gain significantly more benefit from the intervention than might be expected from the average patient with the condition

5 ACCESS TO POLICY

5.1 If you would like further copies of this policy or need it in another format, such as Braille or another language, please contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service on Telephone number: 08000 851067

5.2 **Or write to us:** NHS Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group, Freepost RRKL-XKSC-ACSG, Yeovil, Somerset, BA22 8HR or **Email us:** somccg.pals@nhs.net

6 REFERENCES

The following sources have been considered when drafting this policy:

6.1 Osteoarthritis: Care and management in adults NICE guidelines [CG177]
Published date: February 2014
[HTTP://WWW.NICE.ORG.UK/GUIDANCE/CG177/CHAPTER/1-RECOMMENDATIONS](http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/CG177/CHAPTER/1-RECOMMENDATIONS)

6.2 Obesity: identification, assessment and management
<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg189/resources/obesity-identification-assessment-and-management-pdf-35109821097925>

6.3 [Pain Arising from the Hip in Adults](#)

Appendix 1

Classification of Pain Level and Functional Impairment

This guide below is produced to support all clinicians and patients in classifying the pain and/or impairment suffered due to their condition in order to judge whether it is the appropriate time to refer a patient to secondary care.

Pain Levels:

Slight

- Sporadic pain.
- Pain when climbing/descending stairs.
- Allows daily activities to be carried out (those requiring great physical activity may be limited).
- Medication, aspirin, paracetamol or NSAIDs to control pain with no/few side effects.

Moderate

- Occasional pain.
- Pain when walking on level surfaces (half an hour, or standing).
- Some limitation of daily activities.
- Medication, aspirin, paracetamol or NSAIDs to control with no/few side effects.

Intense

- Pain of almost continuous nature.
- Pain when walking short distances on level surfaces or standing for less than half an hour.
- Daily activities significantly limited.
- Continuous use of NSAIDs for treatment to take effect.
- Requires the sporadic use of support systems walking stick, crutches).

Severe

- Continuous pain.
- Pain when resting.
- Daily activities significantly limited constantly.
- Continuous use of analgesics - narcotics/NSAIDs with adverse effects or no response.
- Requires more constant use of support systems (walking stick, crutches).

Functional Impairment

Minor

- Functional capacity adequate to conduct normal activities and self-care
- Walking capacity of more than one hour
- No aids needed

Moderate

- Functional capacity adequate to perform only a few or none of the normal activities and self-care
- Walking capacity of about one half hour
- Aids such as a cane are needed

Severe

- Largely or wholly incapacitated
- Walking capacity of less than half hour or unable to walk or bedridden
- Aids such as a cane, a walker or a wheelchair are required