



# Authorization criteria: Knee arthroplasty for adults, total, revision

**For BCN HMO<sup>SM</sup> (commercial) and BCN Advantage<sup>SM</sup> members  
For Blue Cross Medicare Plus Blue<sup>SM</sup> PPO members**

Clinical review is required for adult members (age  $\geq 18$ ). The medical necessity criteria are outlined below.

CPT codes: \*27486, \*27487, \*27488

## Fractured prosthesis or cement

The following must be met:

1. Fractured prosthesis or cement identified by imaging
2. No active infection in any location

## Malposition of tibial or femoral component

The following must be met:

1. Malposition of tibial or femoral component identified by imaging
2. No active infection in any location

## Recurrent dislocation

The following must be met:

1. Recurrent dislocation identified by imaging
2. No active infection in any location

## Symptomatic loosening of prosthesis or cement

The following must be met:

1. Symptomatic loosening of prosthesis or cement identified by imaging
2. No active infection in any location

## Worn or dislocated plastic insert

The following must be met:

1. Worn or dislocated plastic insert identified by imaging
2. No active infection in any location



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## Joint infection

Both of the following must be met:

1. Joint infection indicated by one or more of the following:
  - a. Sinus tract communicating with prosthetic joint identified by imaging
  - b. Prosthetic joint infection by positive synovial fluid culture or tissue culture with ONE OR MORE of the following:
    - i. Two cultures positive for the same organism
    - ii. Culture positive for Staphylococcus aureus (S. aureus)
    - iii. Culture positive for gram negative organism
    - iv. Culture positive for enterococci
  - c. Signs and symptoms of infection as indicated by BOTH of the following:
    - i. Prosthetic joint signs and symptoms of ONE OR MORE of the following:
      1. Joint pain, OR
      2. Erythema, OR
      3. Drainage at the joint on physical exam, OR
      4. Swelling at the joint by physical exam
    - ii. Findings of TWO OR MORE of the following:
      1. Temperature >100.4 (38.0 C)
      2. Synovial WBC or neutrophil percentage >normal
      3. ESR >30 mm/hr
      4. C-reactive protein >normal
2. BOTH of the following:
  - a. EITHER of the following:
    - i. Joint infection within the immediate post-operative period of 4 weeks from total joint replacement, OR
    - ii. New joint symptoms and findings after the immediate postoperative period that are greater than 3 weeks in duration
  - b. EITHER of the following:
    - i. Loosening of prosthesis or cement identified by imaging, OR
    - ii. Continued symptoms or findings after treatment with BOTH of the following:
      1. IV anti-infectives for at least for 4 weeks, AND
      2. Joint lavage AND drainage

## References

McKesson's InterQual<sup>®</sup> 2017 Procedures Adult Criteria Removal and Replacement, Total Joint Replacement (TJR) Knee

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Current authorization criteria effective date: March 2018