

Enabling rapid decisions on knee surgery requests

Condition: osteochondral fractures



This information has been developed by ACC's Clinical Advisory Panel together with the Knee Society (on behalf of the New Zealand Orthopaedic Association). It's designed to let you know what's needed for us to be able to make rapid decisions on surgery requests that require prior approval and will be performed outside of the Public Health Acute Services (PHAS)¹ period.

How you can help us make a rapid decision?

It's important that we make decisions for clients as quickly as possible especially when, for some, getting surgery sooner is likely to lead to a better outcome.

When we make a decision it's based on information provided in the Assessment Report & Treatment Plan (ARTP), all contemporaneous notes and imaging you provide, and information we already hold. A surgery request can be fast tracked if it meets all of the Fast Track Assessment (FTA) criteria associated with the condition outlined below.

Osteochondral fractures

This condition has been identified as clinically urgent. The time taken from presentation to performing an internal fixation of an osteochondral fracture is a significant factor affecting outcomes, recovery and return to work and/or pre-injury function.

FTA criteria and exclusions

We can rapidly assess your surgery funding request if there isn't any information missing, both of the following FTA criteria are met and none of the exclusions apply:

1. a clear history of an injury and an accident with an associated ACC covered claim
2. a displaced osteochondral fracture on MRI.

Exclusions:

1. insufficiency fractures
2. osteochondritis dissecans
3. well corticated loose bodies
4. chondral lesions.

¹ For more details regarding PHAS funding, refer to Accident Compensation Corporation (2014). Accident Services: a guide for DHB and ACC staff, from <http://www.acc.co.nz/for-providers/contracts-and-performance/operational-guidelines/index.htm>