

# Total Knee Replacement Surgery

## Medical Policy

### *Utilization Management*

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#### I. **DEFINITION:**

**Knee arthroplasty** is an orthopaedic surgical procedure, during which the articular surface of the knee joint is replaced, remodeled, or realigned.

**Knee replacement** is a form of arthroplasty which includes the surgical placement of the knee joint with a prosthesis.

**Partial knee replacement** involves surgical reconstruction or replacement of one knee joint compartment as a result of unicompartmental (e.g., medial, lateral, or patellofemoral) involvement.

**Prosthesis** refers to an artificial device used to replace a structural element within a joint to improve and enhance function.

**Total knee arthroplasty** is an operation in which a damaged knee joint is surgically replaced with an artificial joint (prosthesis).

**Total knee replacement** involves surgical reconstruction or replacement of the entire knee joint as a result of unicompartmental, Bicompartmental, or tricompartmental involvement.

**The Modified Outerbridge Classification** is a system that has been developed for judging articular cartilage injury to the knee. This system allows delineation of varying areas of chondral pathology, based on the qualitative appearance of the cartilage surface, and can assist in identifying those injuries that are suitable for repair techniques. The characterization of cartilage in this system is as follows:

Grade I – Softening with swelling

Grade II – Fragmentation and fissuring less than one square centimeter (1 cm<sup>2</sup>)

Grade III – Fragmentation and fissuring greater than one square centimeter (1 cm<sup>2</sup>)

Grade IV – Subchondral bone exposed

**The Kellgren-Lawrence Grading System** is a radiographic grading system that has been developed for describing osteoarthritic changes to the knee. When used, the radiographic findings are typically reported within one of the following categories:

Grade I – Doubtful narrowing of joint space and possible osteophytic lipping

Grade II – Definite osteophytes and possible narrowing of joint space

Grade III – Moderate multiple osteophytes, definite narrowing of joint space, some sclerosis, and possible deformity of bone contour

Grade IV – Large osteophytes, marked narrowing of joint space, severe sclerosis, and definite deformity of bone contour

**II. MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PLANS:**

Prior authorization is required through eviCore for all ages. To start prior authorization contact eviCore at 888-444-6185 or log on to [www.evicore.com](http://www.evicore.com).

MyAdvocate Medicare Advantage follows Medicare guidelines when

criteria are met. [Local Coverage Determination \(LCD\): Total Joint](#)

[Arthroplasty \(L36039\)](#)

[Billing and Coding: Total Joint Arthroplasty](#)

**III. COMMENTS:**

[Total Knee Replacement Surgical Procedures Coding and Packaging Guidelines](#) (For MyAdvocate Medicare Advantage internal use only)

[Total Knee Replacement Surgical Procedures ICD-10 Coding and Packaging Guidelines](#) (For MyAdvocate Medicare Advantage internal use only)

**IV. REFERENCES:**

[UpToDate: Total knee arthroplasty](#)

[An Approach to Developing Customized Total Knee Replacement Implants.](#)

Li X, Wang C, Guo Y, Chen W.

J Healthc Eng. 2017;2017:9298061. doi: 10.1155/2017/9298061. Epub 2017 Nov 7.

PMID: 29238512

[Comparison of adverse events rates and hospital cost between customized individually made implants and standard off-the-shelf implants for total knee arthroplasty.](#)

Culler SD, Martin GM, Swearingen A.

Arthroplast Today. 2017 Jun 9;3(4):257-263. doi: 10.1016/j.artd.2017.05.001. eCollection 2017

Dec.

PMID: 29204493

[American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons clinical practice guideline on surgical management of osteoarthritis of the knee \(2015\), AAOS](#)