

Children's Hospital and Health System Chorus Community Health Plans Policy and Procedure

This policy applies to the following entity(s):

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> CHW – Milwaukee | <input type="checkbox"/> CHW - Fox Valley |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CHHS Foundation | <input type="checkbox"/> CHW - Surgicenter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CHW – Community Services Division | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chorus Community Health Plans |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children's Medical Group - Primary Care | <input type="checkbox"/> Children's Specialty Group |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children's Medical Group - Urgent Care | <input type="checkbox"/> CHHS Corporate Departments |

Medical Utilization Management Policy

SUBJECT: KNEE BRACES

INCLUDED PRODUCT(S):

Medicaid

BadgerCare Plus

Care4Kids Program

Individual and Family

Commercial

Marketplace

PURPOSE OR DESCRIPTION:

The purpose of this policy is to define criteria for the medically necessary use of knee braces.

POLICY:

Knee braces will be considered medically necessary when the following criteria are present:

1. For knee braces prescribed for osteoarthritis, ALL of the following must be present:
 - a. Knee pain and functional disability
 - b. Radiographic evidence of advanced osteoarthritis, as indicated by **1 or more** of the following:
 - i. Angular deformity
 - ii. Knee joint destruction
 - iii. Severe joint space narrowing
 - c. No bicompartamental arthritic changes in the tibiofemoral joint

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- d. No injury or chronic stretch of medial or lateral collateral ligaments or other structures of knee
2. For postoperative care, a knee brace may be indicated if:
 - a. When prescribed as part of a postoperative rehabilitation plan during the healing phase within three months of surgery, OR
 - b. There is clinical documentation of ongoing instability any time after surgery, as indicated by:
 - i. Symptoms of joint instability, AND
 - ii. Physical findings of joint instability
3. For knee injuries, a knee brace may be indicated if:
 - a. A physician evaluation shows:
 - i. Documentation of a history consistent with symptoms of instability
 - ii. Documentation of physical exam findings consistent with joint instability

Knee braces will not be considered medical necessary for:

- a. Reduction of pain only
- b. Prevention of further injury, if no current instability exists
- c. Return to participation in sports, if no current instability exists

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