

Policy Category:

INNF

Who usually applies for funding?

GP/Cons



Hyalurons, Hyaluronic Acid (Durolane) or viscosupplementation

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| Commissioning decision | Use of Hyalurons, Hyaluronic Acid (Durolane) or viscosupplementation are considered a low priority for funding and will only be considered in exceptional circumstances. Funding approval must be sought from the ICB via the Individual Funding Request process prior to treatment. |
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Policy Statement:

Hyalurons or Hyaluronic Acid (Durolane) or viscosupplementation as a treatment for osteoarthritis is not normally funded

Rationale:

NICE Clinical Guideline 177 concludes that intra-articular hyaluronan injections should not be offered for the management of osteoarthritis.

Plain English Summary:

Hyaluronic acid is similar to a substance that occurs naturally in the joints. It works by acting like a lubricant and shock absorber in the joints and helps the joints to work properly. Hyaluronic acid injections add to your body's natural supply. You may hear your doctor refer to these injections as "viscosupplementation" which literally means they help supplement the fluid in your joints.

Evidence on the effectiveness of these injections is mixed, but there is sufficient evidence suggesting that treatment has limited gains for the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to conclude that it should not be offered as a treatment for osteoarthritis. It is therefore not normally available on the NHS. If your doctor believes that you have particular circumstances that mean you might particularly benefit from this treatment the Integrated Care Board (ICB) may consider funding the treatment, however any requests for funding will be considered on a case by case basis and will need to demonstrate why your case is exceptional.

Evidence base:

NICE Clinical Guideline 1770 Osteoarthritis

Pennung LI, de Bie RA, Walenkamp GH, *The effectiveness of hyaluronic acid or corticosteroid in patients with subacromial impingement*, 2012, Journal of bone and joint surgery

Degroot H, Uzunishvili S, Weir R, Al-omar A, Gomes B, *Intra-articular injections of hyaluronic acid is not superior to saline solution injection for ankle arthritis*, 2012, Journal of bone health and joint surgery.

For further information please contact GLICB.IFR@nhs.net

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| Date of publication | 12 October 2015 |
| Policy review date | March 2025 |

Policy sign off

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| Reviewing Body | Date of review |
| Effective Clinical Commissioning Policy Group | 3 rd August 2015 |
| Integrated Governance and Quality Committee | 20 th August 2015 |

Version Control

| Version No | Type of Change | Date | Description of Change |
|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------|--|
| 1 | | 12.10.15 | |
| 2 | Date change | 15.03.18 | Policy review date changed to March 2022 |
| 3 | Date change | 10.03.22 | Policy review date changed to March 2025. No amendments to policy required. |