



CHANGES TO MEDICAL NECESSITY REVIEW CRITERIA FOR NON-SURGICAL PROCEDURES FOR KNEE PAIN

Applies to: Commercial - HMO POS PPO Medicare Advantage

Network list: <https://wa-provider.kaiserpermanente.org/communications/letters>

Effective April 1, 2026, Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington and Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington Options, Inc. (Kaiser Permanente) are updating the medical necessity criteria for non-surgical procedures for knee pain.

Explanation of the change:

Kaiser Permanente is updating the non-surgical pain procedure criteria to clarify coverage for Genicular Artery Embolization for knee osteoarthritis and knee hemarthrosis.

To review the Non-Surgical procedures for Knee Pain clinical review criteria, please visit the Kaiser Permanente provider website at:

<https://wa-provider.kaiserpermanente.org/static/pdf/hosting/clinical/criteria/pdf/gna.pdf>

Is prior authorization required?

- KFHPWA Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) members: Prior authorization is required.
- KFHPWAO Point of Service (POS) members: Prior authorization is required for in-network coverage.
- KFHPWAO Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) members: Prior authorization is required.
- Medicare Advantage: Prior authorization is required.

Questions: Contact Provider Assistance Unit at 1-888-767-4670, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington

Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington Options, Inc.

Provider Communications, RCR-A3W-04

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