



Publication of knee replacement volumes: Position statement from the BOA & BASK for the Private Healthcare Information Network

July 2017

- 1- Wherever procedure volumes are published for primary knee replacement as part of patient information resources, these should be divided into the following three groups:
 - Total Knee Replacement
 - Patello-Femoral Replacement
 - Unicondylar Knee Replacement

This will ensure that patients have information available about whether a particular surgeon or unit regularly undertakes knee procedures other than total knee replacement, if this is applicable to their situation.

- 2- The NJR already uses such a breakdown on the NJR Surgeon Hospital Profile site, based on the advice of the BOA and BASK. PHIN publishing knee information in the same way provides consistency of approach with this other major resource.
- 3- In our view and experience, patients are very often aware of the different knee procedures that could be available when making their selection of hospital/surgeon, particularly patients who are considering private treatment. The NHS Choices site for example on its 'knee replacement explained' pages discusses both total and partial knee replacement: <http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Knee-replacement/Pages/Kneereplacementexplained.aspx> and <http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Knee-replacement/Pages/Whathappens.aspx>.
- 4- PHIN requested advice on the OPCS coding to be used to make this division. The BOA and BASK have considered this request but have concluded that we are not well placed to advise on this issue. We particularly note that (1) there are ongoing changes to usage of codes, on which the Department of Health are best placed to advise, and (2) the different private providers submitting information to PHIN could be using codes in various ways and with whom we feel you should liaise.
- 5- As a final point in relation to procedure volumes more widely, as previously indicated to

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PHIN, the BOA favours an approach in which consultants who practice both in the NHS and independent sector have volume information published on their total practice in order to provide a full description of the nature of their practice. Without this, those with a small private practice may be disadvantaged by low numbers reported, and patients are not presented with a true picture of the scale and nature of an individual's practice. This low volume situation applies for example in the case of Patello-Femoral Replacement and Unicdylar Knee Replacement mentioned above.

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