

AI0100 – ALTERNATIVE HIP AND KNEE DEVICES: PATIENT FEES

1.0 PURPOSE

To identify under what terms Interior Health may charge patients for alternatives to the standard metal on cross-linked polyethylene hip replacement device and the standard metal on regular polyethylene knee replacement device.

2.0 DEFINITIONS

Alternative Device: A device, appliance or prosthetic that exceeds the medically necessary standard of care.

PSS: Pre Surgical Screening

Standard Device: A hip or knee prosthesis consisting of a standard metal on cross-linked polyethylene total hip replacement device or the standard metal on regular polyethylene total knee replacement device as covered under the Medical Services Plan (MSP)

3.0 POLICY

3.1 **Insured Devices** – the standard metal on cross-linked polyethylene hip replacement device and the standard metal on regular polyethylene knee replacement device are the basic insured devices for total hip and total knee replacement surgery. These devices are insured as essential components of total hip and total knee replacement and **must be provided to patients at no charge** in public hospitals, or in clinics contracted to deliver this service on behalf of the Interior Health, as a benefit under the *Hospital Insurance Act*.

Alternatives to the standard metal on cross-linked polyethylene hip replacement devices and the standard metal on regular polyethylene knee replacement device are not insured. Other than for rare exceptions noted below, alternative hip and/or knee devices may only be provided to patients on a patient-pay basis. This may be reviewed in the future if data becomes available documenting the superior clinical performance of the alternative hip and/or knee devices.

Deal Governance Steering Committee Clinical Guidelines for Alternative Hip and Knee Devices:

- Alternative hip and/or knee devices are only available in BC on a patient pay basis, other than where deemed *medically required* by the attending surgeon.
- In rare situations, such as documented hypersensitivity, an alternative hip and/or knee device may be *medically required*.
- The *medical requirement* for alternative hip and/or knee devices must be supported in writing by a clinical/technical rationale from the attending surgeon.
- Neither age, nor physical activity level, may be used to indicate the *medical requirement* for an alternative hip and/or knee device.

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- The Ministry, in cooperation with the Health Authorities and Health Shared Services BC (HSSBC), will identify a peer review process for the use of medically required alternative hip and/or knee devices.
- These guidelines may be reviewed in the future, if data documenting the superior clinical performance of alternative hip and/or knee devices becomes available, or as necessary.

3.2 **Informed Consent** – obtaining informed consent for the total hip or total knee replacement surgery and the selection of the hip and/or knee device is the responsibility of the attending surgeon. This requirement is consistent with all other types of medical services delivered by physicians.

In situations where the patient chooses an alternative hip and/or knee device, the Interior Health must receive voluntary, informed written consent for the supply and purchase of the alternative hip and/or knee device, and the payment of the associated patient charge. Consent must be obtained by the surgeon prior to surgery from either the patient or the patient's representative.

Patient consent must be documented using the consent form (# 807623) to ensure that all patients understand the financial implications of choosing an alternative hip and/or knee device.

3.3 **Access** – patients will not be given priority or preferred surgical access in connection with, or conditional upon, their purchase of an Alternative hip and/or knee device.

3.4 **Patient Charges** – other than for rare exceptions listed in the above clinical conditions, Interior Health is required to charge patients for alternative hip and/or knee devices in accordance with the list of patient charges provided, and updated from time to time, by the Ministry of Health.

Interior Health must provide alternative hip and/or knee devices at no cost to the patient, as and when available through supply by the Health Authority, if the attending surgeon has provided written confirmation (including clinical and technical rationale) that the alternative hip and/or knee device is **medically required**. Please see the above clinical guidelines regarding the use of alternative hip and/or knee devices.

Patient charges for alternative hip and/or knee devices must be payable to Interior Health, rather than to another health care provider.

Patients must not be charged for an alternative hip and/or knee device if it is provided solely because the standard device is not available at the time the related insured service is rendered.

3.5 **Purchase and Supply of Hip and/or Knee Devices** – Interior Health must purchase and supply all hip and/or knee devices used in hip and knee replacement surgeries in public hospitals or in clinics contracted to deliver this service on behalf of the Interior Health. This must apply to all surgeries booked **on or after July 1, 2014**.

Interior Health must participate in bulk purchasing arrangements as established by Health Shared Services BC to ensure the lowest price possible.

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4.0 PROCEDURES

4.1 Process for *Medically Required* Alternative Hip or Knee Devices:

1. When a physician has determined that the patient medically requires an Alternative hip or knee device, the specific device and the relevant clinical/rationale shall be noted on the surgical booking request form as well as by attaching the completed [Consent For Use of Alternative Hip and/or Knee Device](#) form.
2. The surgeon's office will fax/scan a copy of the [Consent For Use of Alternative Hip and/or Knee Device](#) form to the IH Surgical Services Clinical Leader at (250) 870-5753.
3. When OR Booking receives a booking package that indicates a medically required Alternative hip or knee procedure, the case will be booked using the specific procedure codes noted on the Consent For Use of Alternative Hip and/or Knee Device (form # 807623) and established in the Picis OR Manager application.

4.2 Process for Payment for Alternative Hip or Knee Devices (Not Medically Required)

1. Patient Decision for Alternative Hip or Knee Device

- i. Patients that do not require an alternative to the standard on the basis of medical necessity may choose (solely as a matter of patient preference) to pay for the alternate device. The surgeon obtains patient consent for the use of an Alternative hip prosthesis using the [Consent For Use of Alternative Hip and/or Knee Device](#) form and discusses payment policy with the patient and/or family.
- ii. The surgeon's office completes the IH Consent For Use of Alternative Hip and/or Knee Device (form # 807623) and the patient signs the form indicating acceptance of charges. If the patient will be covered by a third party insurer, it should be noted on this form.

Copies of the signed [Consent For Use of Alternative Hip and/or Knee Device](#) form are distributed as follows:

- Top copy is given to the patient.
 - Second copy is attached to the Surgical Booking Form and submitted to the OR Booking office.
 - Third copy is faxed or scanned to the IH Surgical Services Clinical Leader (250-870-5753 or denise.dunton@interiorhealth.ca).
- iii. The surgeon explains that payment must occur prior to PSS visit.

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2. Payment Options (Non Medically Required Devices)

Patient Pay

- Patient presents their copy of the [Consent For Use of Alternative Hip and/or Knee Device](#) form that shows the amount to be paid at any hospital cashier (cash, Visa, MasterCard, American Express (*most sites*) or debit card) or by phone using credit card. *Cheques will not be accepted.*
- A receipt will be issued for the amount paid.
- Accounts Receivable will follow up with any patient in arrears.

Third Party Payer

- Patients who have coverage from a third party payer will be requested to arrange for IH Accounts Receivable to invoice for the Alternative hip or knee device fee directly.
- Patients who may have coverage from an extended health benefits carrier are required to pay IH pre-operatively and claim their expenses from the carrier.

3. Booking Process:

- When OR Booking receives a booking package that indicates an Alternative hip or knee procedure, the case will be booked using the specific procedure codes established in Picis OR Manager and corresponding to the code on the [Consent For Use of Alternative Hip and/or Knee Device](#) form.
- When the surgery date is determined and the patient is notified by OR Booking or the Surgeon's office, the patient who is electing to receive a Alternative hip device not recommended as medically required by the surgeon will be reminded to pay prior to the PSS visit.

4. Change in Procedure

Once a patient has paid, if surgery is cancelled or a standard device is used, each site will identify a process to notify Accounts Receivable manager (email or fax 250-314-2791) so that a refund can be issued. Accounts Receivable will issue a refund based on how the payment was received.

5.0 REFERENCES

1. Ministry of Health Policy Communiqué 2014
2. IH [Consent For Use of Alternative Hip and/or Knee Device](#) form.

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