

Knee MRI Appropriateness Checklist

Date effective: March 1, 2025

Background Information:

Shared Health Diagnostic Services is expanding our MRI Choosing Wisely initiative to include Knee MRI. This Clinical Practice Change and Guideline will require Primary Care Providers to include the Knee MRI Appropriateness Checklist when requesting Knee MRI exams. This will improve the appropriateness of MRI examinations across Manitoba, leading to standardized diagnostic workup prior to orthopedic referral for knee osteoarthritis. Using resources from Choosing Wisely Canada, Shared Health has developed a short checklist that can verify or negate the indication for knee MRI. This approach is endorsed by the Arthroscopy Association of Canada – Part of the Canadian Orthopaedic Association - and the European Alliance of Associations for Rheumatology (EULAR).

In a 2024 internal audit, 1264 Manitoba Knee MRI requests were reviewed and 77% did not meet the criteria for appropriate MRI Imaging. With increasing demand for these services and increasing wait times, we are working to reduce low value testing, to improve outcomes and wait times for those most in need.

Clinical Practice Change:

An appropriateness checklist has been created and paired in the EMR with the Shared Health MRI requisition. The MRI requisition **must be filled** for appropriate routing and safety checks of the request and the checklist replaces the patient's clinical history. **Starting in March 2025, all new requests for Knee MRI must include a completed "MRI Knee Appropriateness Checklist". Requests missing the appropriate checklist will be returned.** Please contact your EMR Vendor to find the new form for download.

Benefits include:

- Provides a decision support tool that clinicians can review with patients to make partnered decisions on their care
- Promote resource stewardship of diagnostic imaging resources
- Ensure patients receive the correct required test in the workup of osteoarthritis
- Provide detailed clinical information for radiologists
- Reduce wait times for patients who require diagnostic MRI imaging

References/Resources

- [Knee MRI Appropriateness – Reference Material – Health Providers](#)
- [Clinical Practice Changes - Diagnostic - Health Providers](#)
- [Orthopaedics - Choosing Wisely Canada](#)

Contact Information:

Dr. Stephen Ying, Provincial Medical Specialty Lead, Diagnostic Imaging

Mohammed Bhabha, Executive Director, Provincial Diagnostic Imaging Operations
mbhabha@Sharedhealthmb.ca