

## Corporate Medical Policy

### Patient-Specific Instrumentation (e.g., Cutting Guides) for Joint Arthroplasty

**File Name:** patient\_specific\_instrumentation\_eg\_cutting\_guides\_for\_joint\_arthroplasty  
**Origination:** 11/2014  
**Last CAP Review:** 6/2020  
**Next CAP Review:** 6/2021  
**Last Review:** 6/2020

#### Description of Procedure or Service

---

Patient-specific instrumentation (PSI) has been developed as an alternative to conventional cutting guides for joint arthroplasty. Patient-specific cutting guides are constructed with the aid of preoperative 3-dimensional computed tomography or magnetic resonance imaging scans and proprietary planning software. The goals of patient-specific instrumentation are to increase surgical efficiency and to improve implant alignment and clinical outcomes.

Patient-specific instrumentation has been developed as an alternative to conventional cutting guides, with the goal of improving both alignment and surgical efficiency. A number of patient-specific cutting guides are currently being marketed (see Regulatory Status section). Patient-specific guides are constructed with the use of preoperative 3-dimensional CT or MRI scans which are taken about four to six weeks before the surgery. The images are sent to the planner/manufacturer to create a 3-dimensional model of the knee and proposed implant. After the surgeon reviews the model of the bone, makes adjustments, and approves the surgical plan, the manufacturer fabricates the disposable cutting guides.

The proposed benefits of using patient-specific instrumentation during TKA include improved alignment, decreased operative time, increased patient throughput, fewer instrument trays, reduced risk of fat embolism and intraoperative bleeding (no intramedullary canal reaming), shorter recovery, reduced postoperative pain, reduced revision rate, and reduced costs. However, the nonsurgical costs of the procedure may be increased due to the requirement for preoperative CT or MRI, preoperative review of the template, and fabrication of the PSI. In addition, the patient-specific template relies on the same anatomic landmarks as conventional TKA and does not take soft tissue balancing into account. Thus, evaluation of this technology should also address the reliability of the cutting guides and the need for intraoperative changes such as conversion to conventional instrumentation.

#### Regulatory Status

There are eight commercially available patient-specific instrumentation systems for total knee arthroplasty. In 2008, the Smith & Nephew Patient Matched Instrumentation (now called Visionaire™ Patient Matched Instrumentation) was the first patient-specific cutting guide to receive the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) clearance for marketing.

- Signature™ Planner/Signature Guides (Materialise N.V. and Biomet)
- Visionaire Patient Matched Cutting Blocks (Smith & Nephew)
- TruMatch® Personalized Solutions (Depuy Orthopaedics)
- X-PSI Knee System (ORTHOsoft)
- iTotal (Conformis)

# Patient-Specific Instrumentation (e.g., Cutting Guides) for Joint Arthroplasty

- Shapematch (Stryker)
- Prophecy™ Pre-operative Navigation Alignment Guides (Wright Medical Technology)
- Zimmer® Patient Specific Instruments and Zimmer® Patient Specific Instruments Planner (Materialise N.V. and Zimmer)

## Related Policy

Computer Assisted Surgical Navigational Orthopedic Procedures  
Three Dimensional Printed Orthopedic Implants

**\*\*\*Note: This Medical Policy is complex and technical. For questions concerning the technical language and/or specific clinical indications for its use, please consult your physician.**

## Policy

---

**Use of patient-specific instrumentation (e.g., cutting guides) for joint arthroplasty is considered investigational for all applications. BCBSNC does not provide coverage for investigational services or procedures.**

## Benefits Application

---

This medical policy relates only to the services or supplies described herein. Please refer to the Member's Benefit Booklet for availability of benefits. Member's benefits may vary according to benefit design; Therefore member benefit language should be reviewed before applying the terms of this medical policy.

## When Patient-Specific Instrumentation (e.g., Cutting Guides) for Joint Arthroplasty are covered

---

Not applicable.

## When Patient-Specific Instrumentation (e.g., Cutting Guides) for Joint Arthroplasty are not covered

---

Use of patient-specific instrumentation (e.g., cutting guides) for joint arthroplasty, including but not limited to use in unicompartmental or total knee arthroplasty, is considered investigational.

## Policy Guidelines

---

For individuals who are undergoing partial or total knee arthroplasty who receive patient-specific cutting guides, the evidence includes a number of randomized controlled trials (RCTs), comparative cohort studies, and systematic reviews of these studies. Relevant outcomes are symptoms, functional outcomes, and quality of life. Results from the systematic reviews are mixed, finding significant improvements in some measures of implant alignment but either no improvement or worse alignment for other measures. The available systematic reviews are limited by the small size of some of the selected studies, publication bias, and differences in both planning and manufacturing of the PSI systems. Also, the designs of the devices are evolving, and some of the studies may have assessed now obsolete PSI systems. Available results from RCTs have not shown a benefit of PSI systems in improving clinical outcome measures with follow-up currently extending out to two years. The evidence is insufficient to determine the effects of the technology on health outcomes.

## Billing/Coding/Physician Documentation Information

---

# Patient-Specific Instrumentation (e.g., Cutting Guides) for Joint Arthroplasty

This policy may apply to the following codes. Inclusion of a code in this section does not guarantee that it will be reimbursed. For further information on reimbursement guidelines, please see Administrative Policies on the Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina web site at [www.bcbssc.com](http://www.bcbssc.com). They are listed in the Category Search on the Medical Policy search page.

*Applicable codes: 0561T, 0562T*

The preplanning for the surgery may involve magnetic resonance (MRI) or CT imaging which may help to identify these procedures.

BCBSNC may request medical records for determination of medical necessity. When medical records are requested, letters of support and/or explanation are often useful, but are not sufficient documentation unless all specific information needed to make a medical necessity determination is included.

## Scientific Background and Reference Sources

---

BCBSA Medical Policy Reference Manual, [Electronic Version]. 7.01.144, 9/11/14

Specialty Matched Consultant Advisory Panel 6/2015

BCBSA Medical Policy Reference Manual, [Electronic Version]. 7.01.144, 9/10/15

Specialty Matched Consultant Advisory Panel 6/2016

Specialty Matched Consultant Advisory Panel 6/2017

BCBSA Medical Policy Reference Manual, [Electronic Version]. 7.01.144, 8/10/2017

BCBSA Medical Policy Reference Manual, [Electronic Version]. 7.01.144, 5/4/2018

BCBSA Medical Policy Reference Manual, [Electronic Version]. 7.01.144, 4/8/2019

Specialty Matched Consultant Advisory Panel 7/2019

BCBSA Medical Policy Reference Manual, [Electronic Version]. 7.01.144, 4/16/2020

Specialty Matched Consultant Advisory Panel 6/2020

## Policy Implementation/Update Information

---

11/25/14 New policy developed. Use of custom implants or patient-specific instrumentation (e.g., cutting guides) for joint arthroplasty is considered investigational for all applications. Medical Director review 10/2014. Policy noticed 11/25/14 for effective date 01/27/15. (sk)

7/28/15 Specialty Matched Consultant Advisory Panel review 6/24/2015. (sk)

10/30/15 Related policy added. Reference added. (sk)

12/30/15 Code 0396T added to Billing/Coding section. (sk)

7/26/16 Policy Guidelines updated. Specialty Matched Consultant Advisory Panel review 6/29/2016. (sk)

# Patient-Specific Instrumentation (e.g., Cutting Guides) for Joint Arthroplasty

- 7/28/17 Specialty Matched Consultant Advisory Panel review 6/28/2017. Code 0396T removed from policy. (sk)
- 9/29/17 Reference added. Policy Guidelines updated. (sk)
- 6/29/18 Reference added. Custom implants moved to new policy on 3-dimensional printed orthopedic implants. Title and policy statement changed to “Patient-Specific Instrumentation (e.g., Cutting Guides) for Joint Arthroplasty.” (sk)
- 7/1/19 Reference added. Background section updated. Regulatory Status updated. New codes 0561T and 0562T added to Billing/Coding section. (sk)
- 6/30/20 Reference added. Specialty Matched Consultant Advisory Panel review 6/17/2020. (sk)

---

Medical policy is not an authorization, certification, explanation of benefits or a contract. Benefits and eligibility are determined before medical guidelines and payment guidelines are applied. Benefits are determined by the group contract and subscriber certificate that is in effect at the time services are rendered. This document is solely provided for informational purposes only and is based on research of current medical literature and review of common medical practices in the treatment and diagnosis of disease. Medical practices and knowledge are constantly changing and BCBSNC reserves the right to review and revise its medical policies periodically.