

The prescribing of intra-articular injections of hyaluronic acid and its derivatives for osteoarthritis of the knee are not supported

Hyaluronic acid and its derivatives are injected intra-articularly to supplement natural hyaluronic acid in the synovial fluid. Thurrock CCG and Basildon and Brentwood CCG do not support the prescribing of intra-articular injections of hyaluronic acid and its derivatives for osteoarthritis of the knee.

- NICE Clinical Guideline on Osteoarthritis: care and management (CG177, February 2014) states:

Do not offer intra-articular hyaluronan injections for the management of osteoarthritis.

- The British National Formulary (BNF) 72 (September 16-March 2017) states:

'Hyaluronic acid and its derivatives' are available for osteoarthritis of the knee, but are not recommended'.

'Sodium hyaluronate (Durolane[®], Euflexxa[®], Fermathron[®], Hyalgan[®], Orthovisc[®], Ostenil[®], Ostenil Plus[®], RenehaVis[®], Suplasyn[®], Synocrom[®], Synopsis[®]) or hylan G-F 20 (Synvisc[®]) is injected intra-articularly to supplement natural hyaluronic acid in the synovial fluid. These injections may reduce pain over 1 to 6 months, but are associated with a short-term increase in knee inflammation'.

Sodium hyaluronate (SportVis[®]) is also licensed for the relief of pain and optimisation of recovery following ankle sprain, and for the relief of chronic pain and disability associated with tennis elbow. **The use of this product is not recommended.**

Providers commissioned to provide services on behalf of Thurrock CCG and Basildon and Brentwood CCG are reminded that they are required to follow the local joint formulary and prescribing guidance, or relevant Medicines Management agreement.

Position Statement No.	32
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References	NICE Clinical Guideline on Osteoarthritis: care and management (CG177, February 2014) British National Formulary (BNF) 72 (September 16-March 2017)
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