AUSTRALIAN COMMISSION ON SAFETY AND QUALITY IN HEALTH CARE



Osteoarthritis of the Knee

Osteoarthritis is one of the most common chronic joint conditions in Australia. It can cause pain, loss of mobility and reduced quality of life.

Knee osteoarthritis is a major form of the condition and the main reason for knee replacement surgery, with excess weight being a key risk factor.

About 2.1 million Australians are estimated to have osteoarthritis

It is the fourth most common reason people visit GPs



30% of people aged 65 or older report some joint symptoms

\$1.6 billion spent on treating osteoarthritis per year

Effective management in primary care can reduce the burden of knee osteoarthritis on patients and the healthcare system

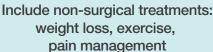


Provide a comprehensive clinical assessment



Educate the patient and develop a self-management plan







Monitor the patient through planned clinical reviews





Refer the patient to a surgeon or rheumatologist if conservative management no longer works

For more information on the Osteoarthritis of the Knee Clinical Care Standard go to www.safetyandquality.gov.au/ccs