

Appendix 1: Conflicts of Interest

Pre-screening

All panel members were pre-screened for conflicts of interest prior to the guideline process that resulted in the BMJ Rapid Recommendations. The RapidRecs Executive team from the non-profit organisation MAGIC (www.magicproject.org) performed the prescreening with support from BMJ editors. No financial conflicts of interest were allowed (specifically, no financial ties to the arthroscopy industry or any other intervention for degenerative knee disease) and intellectual and professional conflicts of interest were managed appropriately (see appendix 2: Methods for BMJ Rapid Recommendations). We could not find an appropriate orthopaedic content expert to chair the panel, despite seriously considering approximately ten otherwise highly qualified individuals, so we chose to use a

Financial disclosures

No guideline panel members have any financial conflicts of interest to disclose in any way related to this clinical question. Some panel members have received funding from industry: Dr. Poolman is the primary investigator in hip fracture trials funded by LIMA and LINK, who do not have any products related to degenerative knee disease. Dr. Buchbinder has sat on panel discussions and given talks at symposiums funded by Roche Australia and BMS Rheumatology; neither company has any products used in degenerative knee disease.

Professional disclosures:

Drs. Harris, Poolman, and Knutsen perform arthroscopic surgery. Drs. Van De Velde (physiotherapist), Buchbinder (rheumatologist), Hailey (physiotherapist), and Olsen (physiotherapist) manage patients with degenerative knee disease non-operatively.

Intellectual disclosures:

Dr. Harris is a board member of the Australian Orthopaedic Association, which has taken a position on the matter; he has made some statements generally discouraging widespread use of arthroscopy. Dr. Poolman is the primary investigator of an ongoing randomised trial examining arthroscopy versus physical therapy for degenerative meniscal tears. Dr. Buchbinder is a board member on the Australian Rheumatology Association, is the chair of the Knee Osteoarthritis Clinical Care Standard Topic Working Group for the Australian Commission on Quality and Safety in Health Care, and the Joint Coordinating Editor, Cochrane Musculoskeletal group, and has made statements generally discouraging routine use of arthroscopy for osteoarthritis. Dr. Englund is a board member for the Osteoarthritis Research Society International (OARSI); he has previously made statements discouraging arthroscopy for osteoarthritis. Dr. Englund and Ms. Wilson are members of the European Society for Sports Traumatology, Knee Surgery and Arthroscopy (ESSKA) guideline panel on arthroscopy for knee meniscus disease, which made statements generally more supportive of arthroscopy than the current guideline. Dr. Siemieniuk, Agoritsas, Lytvyn, and Kristiansen are members of the GRADE Working Group.