

## Outpatient Facility Coding Alert

### Arthroscopy Explained: Take a Quick Look at Arthroscopy

**Read this refresher to remember what you're coding.**

Arthroscopy is a procedure to examine the joint, most often the knees and shoulders.

**Anatomy refresher:** The joint is a complicated system with ligaments (joining bones to bones), tendons (joining muscles to cartilages and bones), and synovial fluid lubricating this complex structure.

During this procedure the surgeon gets a clear view of the joint and finds out the location and extent of the damage with a specifically designed illuminated device called an arthroscope.

A knee diagnostic arthroscopy is done to find out the abnormalities of the knee joint, and a knee surgical arthroscopy is done to treat the damaged knee joint for abnormalities like damaged patella, torn meniscus, or inflamed synovium.