

# Shoulder surgery entitlement

## Consideration factors



### Consideration factors for the fast track assessment of shoulder surgery requests

The Shoulder & Elbow Society (SES) on behalf of the New Zealand Orthopaedic Association (NZOA), and the Clinical Advisory Panel (CAP) on behalf of ACC, have agreed on the following factors that will allow for the fast track assessment (FTA) of shoulder surgery requests.

#### Essential Criteria for FTA

1. An ACC covered shoulder injury
2. No unexplained previously documented injury or claims for that shoulder
3. The mechanism of incident involves an unexpected and high energy force (controlled activities/ activities of daily living (ADLs) are excluded from FTA)
4. No unexplained delay between injury and initial presentation
5. No history mismatch between ARTP and contemporaneous medical records.

#### Conditions Included for FTA

1. Glenohumeral and AC joint dislocation
2. Fractures about the shoulder and the clavicle
3. Isolated subscapularis tendon tears
4. A rotator cuff tear requiring repair within 6 months of the date of injury (DOI), excluding those with the following radiological features:
  - Acromiohumeral interval (AHI)  $\leq 7$ mm
  - Large acromial spur  $> 10$ mm
  - Rotator cuff arthropathy
  - Goutallier Stage II Atrophy within 3 months or Stage III within 6 months of the DOI
  - Imaging reporting anterior greater tuberosity cysts
  - Bilateral cuff pathology

Use the following table of corroborative features for and against acuity to determine whether the ARTP can be included for FTA:

Corroborative features in favour of acuity	Corroborative features against acuity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Loss of strength or active range of motion (ROM) at assessment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Retraction beyond rim or &gt;35 mm</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Excessive bursal fluid, blood or debris</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No fluid (joint or bursa)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mid substance tears (tissue on tuberosity)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Medium spurs (5 - 10mm)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MRI oedema on the greater tuberosity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inferior AC joint osteophyte</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unilateral tears if bilateral USS available</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greater tuberosity irregularity on USS imaging (X-ray changes not clear evidence)</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Generalised tendinosis in multiple tendons</li> </ul>

These ARTPs must include an X-ray and advanced soft tissue imaging (MRI/US).

#### Conditions Excluded from FTA

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multidirectional laxity/ instability</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Glenohumeral OA/ Total Shoulder Replacement</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pathological fractures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Osteolysis outer end of clavicle or AC joint OA</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adhesive Capsulitis/ Frozen Shoulder</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Subacromial bursitis/ Impingement</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Calcific tendinitis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any other shoulder condition not already mentioned</li> </ul>