Viscosupplementation is a costly treatment plan.

If your doctor writes you a prescription for a viscosupplement, some insurance plans, including Medicare, may not cover the cost.

Insurance plans may cover the medication under your pharmacy plan, or as a medical benefit. Therefore, it is recommended that you check with your insurer prior to receiving a prescription.

Harrington Physician Services Orthopedics Department is committed to providing you quality care. We strive to find the most successful treatment options available for our patients. If viscosupplementation is not an option for you, please feel free to discuss other treatment possibilities with your physician.
Viscosupplementation is a treatment option for those with osteoarthritis of the knee. The primary goal of viscosupplementation is to relieve pain and restore function to the knee.

People with osteoarthritis have a lower-than-normal concentration of a gel-like fluid called hyaluronic acid in their joints. Hyaluronic acid is a naturally occurring substance found in the synovial (joint) fluid. This fluid is important because it acts as a lubricant and enables bones to move smoothly over each other. It also acts as a shock absorber for your joints.

In viscosupplementation, hyaluronic acid is injected into the knee joint. The procedure has proven effective to relieve pain and discomfort in patients who have not responded well to other nonsurgical treatments, including over the counter anti-inflammatory medications, or physical therapy.

What is Viscosupplementation?

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What are my Treatment Options?

**Euflexxa** (sodium hyaluronate). Euflexxa is given as a three-dose injection over three weeks (one injection per week).

**Hyalgan** (sodium hyaluronate). Hyalgan was the first viscosupplement approved by the FDA in 1997. This viscosupplement is given as a series of five injections, once per week for five weeks.

**Orthovisc** (high-molecular-weight hyaluronan). Unlike all other viscosupplements, Orthovisc is derived from bacterial cells, not rooster combs. This makes it an ideal option for OA patients with sensitivities or allergies to birds or chickens, eggs, and feathers. Orthovisc is available as a three- or four-dose injection.

**Supartz** (sodium hyaluronate). This viscosupplement is given as a three- or five-dose injection. A three-dose injection series provides relief up to six months. A greater number of injections may provide a longer window of pain relief.

**Synvisc-One** (hylan G-F 20). Synvisc-One is the only viscosupplement approved as a one-dose injection. Studies show this viscosupplement can provide up to six months of OA relief after just one injection. The most common side effects of a Synvisc-One injection include swelling around the affected joint and pain and stiffness in the joint.

**Synvisc** (hylan G-F 20). Unlike Synvisc-One, Synvisc requires three injections of hyaluronic acid.

What Other Information Should I Know?

**Common Side Effects:**
The most common side effects of viscosupplements may be pain, swelling and bruising. These symptoms generally do not last long. You may want to apply an ice pack to help ease them.

It can take two to three weeks after the injection to notice significant improvement. The effects can provide relief for up to six months.

Viscosupplementation has never been shown to reverse the arthritic process or re-grow cartilage.

Your Appointment

Once you confirm your coverage for a viscosupplement, please contact the office for a prescription if it is required.

Your insurance plan may require a prior authorization to be completed for the viscosupplement. Please understand this process can take several weeks to get a response from your insurance carrier. The office will contact you as soon as we get an approval or denial for the medication. Please give the authorization process at least 30 days before you contact the office for an update.