Ottawa Knee Rules

This template guides clinicians through a systematic evaluation of knee injuries to determine the need for radiographs, aligning with the Ottawa Knee Rules. It ensures comprehensive documentation of patient details, injury specifics, and examination findings.

Patient information	
Name:	Age:
Clinician:	Date of assessment:
Injury details	
Date of injury:	
Mechanism of injury:	
Pain characteristics:	
Examination procedure	
1. Palpation:	
Check for sensitivity of the proximal fibula and patella. Only examine the patella, not the surrounding tissues.	
2. Knee flexion:	
Determine if the patient can flex their knee to 90°. This should be measured using a goniometer.	
3. Weight-bearing ability:	
Examine if the patient can bear weight on the affected leg. Ask the patient to take four steps; inability to do so without pain indicates a positive test.	
Physical examination checklist	
Isolated patella tenderness	Tenderness at fibular head
☐ Present Absent	☐ Present Absent
Knee flexion capacity	Weight-bearing ability
Can the patient flex the knee to 90 degrees or more?	Can the patient walk four weight-bearing steps in the emergency department?
☐ Yes No	☐ Yes No

Radiograph decision	
Based on the Ottawa Knee Rules, is a radiograph required?	
☐ Yes	No
Rationale for decision:	
Further manageme	ent steps
Immediate intervent	ions:
Referrals to speciali	sts:
Follow-up care:	
Clinician's signatu	re
Name and signature	of examiner:
Date:	
This template is designed to ensure that all necessary examinations are conducted according to the Ottawa Knee Rules, promoting accurate assessments and aiding in the decision-making process for radiographic needs.	

Source: Ottawa Knee Rules. (n.d.). Physiopedia. https://www.physio-pedia.com/Ottawa_Knee_Rules