Primary indications for MRI of the knee include, but are not limited to, diagnosis, exclusion, and grading of suspected:
1. Meniscal disorders: nondisplaced and displaced tears, discoid menisci, meniscal cysts
2. Ligament tears: cruciate, collateral, retinacular
3. Extensor mechanism abnormalities: quadriceps tendon, patellar tendon, patella
4. Osteochondral and articular cartilage infractions: osteochondral fractures, osteochondritis dissecans, degenerative chondrosis, chondromalacia, chondral fissures, fractures, flaps and separations
5. Loose bodies: chondral, osteochondral, osseous
6. Synovial-based disorders: symptomatic plicae, synovitis (including pigmented villonodular synovitis), bursitis, and popliteal cysts
7. Marrow abnormalities: avascular necrosis, marrow edema syndromes, and stress fractures
8. Muscle and tendon disorders: strains, partial and complete tears, tendonitis, tendonopathy, infiltration
9. Neoplasms of bone, joint or soft tissue
10. Infections of bone, joint or soft tissue
11. Congenital and developmental conditions: Blount disease, dysplasia, normal variants
12. Vascular conditions: entrapment, aneurysm, stenosis, occlusion, cystic change
13. Neurologic conditions: entrapment, compression, denervation, and peripheral neuritis

MRI of the knee may be indicated to further clarify and stage conditions diagnosed clinically and/or suggested by other imaging modalities, including, but not limited to:
1. Arthritis: inflammatory, infectious, neuropathic, degenerative, crystal-induced, post-traumatic
2. Primary and secondary bone and soft tissue tumors
3. Fractures and dislocations

MRI of the knee may be useful to evaluate specific clinical scenarios, including, but not limited to:
1. Prolonged, refractory, or unexplained knee pain
2. Acute trauma
3. Mechanical knee symptoms: catching, locking, snapping, crepitus
4. Tibiofemoral and/or patellofemoral instability: chronic, recurrent, subacute, acute dislocation and subluxation
5. Tibiofemoral and/or patellofemoral malalignment
6. Limited or painful range of motion
7. Swelling, enlargement, mass or atrophy
8. Iliotibial band friction syndrome
9. Patients for whom diagnostic or therapeutic arthroscopy is planned
10. Patients with recurrent, residual, or new symptoms following knee surgery