

Clinical Management Guideline: Integrated Cataract Pathway

For patients identified with a cataract following a sight test and would like to be considered for surgery as indicated within NICE NG 77.

Cataract Referral Filtering Service

The cataract referral filtering assessment will include:

- Confirmation of visually significant cataract
- Confirmation of cataract symptoms to warrant surgery
- Information regarding cataracts – what they are and how they affect vision
- Information regarding cataract surgery, including:
 - What is involved and how long it takes
 - Possible risks and benefits
 - Likely recovery time and support that may be needed during this time
 - Likely long-term outcomes – inc. possibility may need spectacles for some tasks
 - How vision and quality of life may be affected by surgery
- Confirmation patient wants surgery following shared decision making – which may require a pause for thought

Outcomes:

- **Direct Referral for Surgery:** Patient DOES need and want surgery.
- **Discharge and Monitor:** Patient DOES NOT need and / or want surgery - discharge and advise to continue regular visits to their primary eye care professional.

Cataract Surgery (Surgical Provider)

Provided by patients chosen surgical provider.

Outcomes:

- **Post-operative assessment by treatment centre:** following complicated cataract surgery or where there are significant ocular co-morbidities of concern.

- **Post-operative assessment in optical practice:** following routine uncomplicated cataract surgery.

Post-operative assessment – in Optical practice

Delivered between 4 weeks and 6 weeks of surgery.

- Identify any complications after surgery (following slit lamp examination) and prompt referral to specialist ophthalmologist services where required
- Measure and collect Visual Acuity, refraction and impact of surgery on quality of life (UK National Minimum Cataract Data set)
- Information regarding:
 - Eye drops
 - What to do if vision changes
 - Who to contact if they have concerns or queries
 - When it is appropriate to get new spectacles and how to do so
 - 2nd Eye Surgery
 - Arrangements for managing ocular co morbidities

Outcomes:

- **Referral to treatment centre:** where appropriate for post-operative complications with the appropriate urgency.
- **Refer for 2nd Eye Surgery:** Following confirmation of eligibility and shared decision making.
- **Discharge:** advise on interval before next routine eye examination.