



CATARACT REFERRAL REFINEMENT

AIM- To determine whether patient requires and wants surgery for their cataracts.

REQUIREMENTS (minimum information noted in referral letter)

- Symptoms
- Up-to-date refraction (within 6 months)
- Vision and/or visual acuity
- Pinhole acuity
- Dilated fundoscopy
- Review & documentation of any co-morbidity
- Confirmation that patient understands the risks & benefits
- Confirmation that patient wants surgery
- Patient has been advised of waiting times and would like to proceed
- If independent provider, confirmation that you have determined patient suitability against providers inclusion and exclusion criteria

KEY INFORMATION TO INFORM PATIENTS

BENEFITS:

- 95% of patients with no other eye problems have improved quality of vision

RISKS:

- 1 in 1000 risk of severe and permanent loss of vision (e.g. from a severe infection, bleeding at the back of the eye or retinal detachment)
- 1 in 100 risk of needing an additional operation (e.g. to complete your cataract surgery or treat any complications)
- 1 in 20 risk of problems during or soon after surgery that may require additional treatment and delay your recovery
- 1 in 5 chance of needing to wear glasses or contact lenses all the time to further improve your vision
- 1 in 3 chance of needing laser treatment in the future to clear clouding around the artificial lens

Any spectacles used prior to surgery are unlikely to be correct after surgery. However, it does take approximately 6 weeks post-surgery for your prescription to stabilise before it can be accurately assessed.

Having cataract surgery does not necessarily remove your need for vision correction but can often change the dependency of spectacles.

Waiting times for initial assessment and surgical dates at the hospital vary, the approximate waiting time for your chosen provider is

NOTE:

- Px already under HES (for e.g. glaucoma) should stay under the care of same HES and same department – please indicate where they are currently being treated and document on the referral if a patient is specifically choosing elsewhere or your referral may be rejected.
- If referring to independent provider, ensure you have checked for all exclusion criteria.