

Name of treatment or procedure

Cataract surgery

Description of treatment or procedure

This surgery is used to treat cataracts (a condition where changes in the lens of the eye cause cloudy, blurry, or misty vision).

Current policy

A patient can be referred for cataract surgery based on how badly their vision has worsened, which is measured using a detailed lifestyle questionnaire and template.

Proposed change(s)

More detailed examples of impact on 'quality of life' would be required and more detailed questions in the referral guidelines and questionnaire would be included. An example referral template would no longer be included. Criteria for second eye referral would be excluded.

The proposed criteria would read:

- It is strongly recommended that only those cases with best corrected visual acuity (sharpness) of 6/9 (Snellen) or +0.2 (Logmar) or worse in the poorer eye are referred. However, exceptions may be made where the patient's quality of life is significantly impaired.

Reason for proposed change(s)

To provide a more clear referral process for clinicians, as the questionnaire and template can be subjective and cause inconsistencies.

Adding a description of the impact on quality of life would mean more specific patient referral and treatment.

Impact of proposed change(s)

Improved referral process for clinicians and patients. This would not change patient access to the service. All patients who need this procedure would still be referred without an Individual Funding Request.