

Policy name	Cataract surgery
Policy type	Threshold with prior approval
Date produced	July 2021

Patient and referral details	
Name	
DoB	
Address	
NHS number	
Consultant/ service to which referral will be made	
Hospital/ provider	
Referred by (GP/ other name)	
Referral date	

Please indicate whether the patient meets the following criteria. Patients should only be considered for surgery (in the first or the second eye) if they have evidence of significant cataract on assessment AND any of the following:	
Visual disability: can no longer undertake their usual activities such as reading or watching television, or particular activities relating to their employment (if applicable) OR Visual symptoms attributable to cataract: eg significant glare and dazzle in daylight or difficulties with night vision, due to the lens opacity. This may particularly affect patients who need to drive at night OR Asymptomatic risk/ disability: They have difficulty with activities of daily living or self-care, and/or are at increased risk of falls due to impaired vision OR They are a carer for their partner or other dependent adult and the cataract limits their ability to provide care. OR Acuity: corrected binocular VA is 6/9 or worse (0.20 logMAR) OR they have a monocular VA of 6/18 (0.40 logMAR) or worse in the affected eye	Yes/no
AND The patient has confirmed that they wish/agree to be referred to consider surgery.	Yes/no

Policy exclusions

This policy does not apply in patients who require cataract surgery for any of the following reasons:

- The patient has significant optical imbalance between the two eyes (anisometropia) which will be reduced or resolved by removal of the cataract (this may be the result of cataract surgery on the first eye);

- The patient has a co-existing eye condition and the removal of the cataract is required to enable better surveillance or management of the condition, for example diabetic and other retinopathies, age-related macular degeneration, glaucoma, inflammatory eye disease or neuro-ophthalmological conditions;
- The patient has corneal or conjunctival disease where cataract removal would reduce the risk of losing corneal clarity or reduce the risk of complications;
- The patient has a refractive error which is primarily due to the presence of the cataract;
- The patient has post-vitrectomy cataracts which hinder the retinal view or result in a rapidly progressing myopia.

Information Governance

All Prior Approval Requests must be reviewed by the clinical commissioning group (CCG) as the statutory body responsible for funding decisions. This application form and other supporting information supplied may be shared with the CCG. If so, personal information will be retained only for the purposes of this Prior Approval Request and, in some cases, may be used for invoicing and payment reconciliation. The patient's medical records may be used for the purpose of clinical audit which will be completed by a clinician. Anonymised information may also be shared as part of the CCG reporting process.

Does the patient consent to the sharing of their personal information?

Refusal of consent will not preclude application of this referral. However, the referring body must ensure that all personal identifiable data is redacted from this application.