

Protocols for the Post-Operative Cataract Service

This service will be provided across the whole of South & Mid Essex ICBs for patient's whose GP is registered within the ICBs for this region.

The service is for the provision Post-Operative Cataract Service from community optometrists (for patients who meet the referral criteria) in community setting.

Service Description

- After surgery, the Ophthalmologist will decide which patient can be discharged for a follow up check in the community.
- Before discharge patient will be asked which practitioner, they wish to see for the Post Op Cataract Service
- The HES will provide the patient with appropriate instructions and medication.
- If any patient experiences a red or painful eye in the weeks following the operation and prior to their post-operative check they are instructed to seek help immediately from the HES.
- The patient's information will be transferred from the HES via the Opera IT system to the community provider in order for the post-operative check to be conducted.
- Log on to the Opera IT system to find the patient details
- Contact the patient and book in for their 4-6 week appt.

The Post-Operative Check

Post-operative visits

Patients will need to be booked in for both their post-op check-up and their sight test, either GOS or private depending on their usual entitlement. If they are entitled to GOS, their GOS1 form will need to be coded. (WITH 3.2)

The post-operative check will include:

- review progress and medication
- collect outcome data – including inputting onto Medisoft portal
- discuss second eye surgery if appropriate
- arrange follow-up for co-existing eye disease, if not already done

- provide advice on spectacle prescription (which can be prescribed approximately 4-6 weeks following phacoemulsification)
- Every patient is to be given details of Patient Satisfaction Questionnaire/Feedback. This is now usually done online via text or email.

A full eye test be undertaken, as per College Guidelines and recorded on your usual notes

For the specific assessment for post-operative cataracts, the following must be performed:

Symptoms and History, specific to the patient's recent cataract surgery

Questions should include:

- Has there been any pain or discomfort?
- Has there been any redness of the eyes?
- Has there been any discharge?
- Has there been any sudden reduction in vision?
- The patient's drop compliance will need to be checked i.e. are they instilling the drops in the correct frequency and tapering their drops as advised.
- Is the patient happy with the outcome of their surgery?
- Is the patient happy with the vision?

Ocular Examination, specific to the patient's recent cataract surgery

The following **MUST** be assessed in addition to the standard sight test:

It is a requirement of this service to dilate all patients. A slit lamp examination to review external eye must be performed. A volk lens must be used to examine the internal eye.

The Optometrist must confirm the following:

- Is the Conjunctiva abnormal in any way?
- Has the corneal clarity been affected?
- Is there any anterior chamber activity present? (>2 cells seen in 2x2mm field)
- Is the wound red or unusual in anyway?
- Is the pupil irregular or decentred?
- Is the IOL in the correct position?
- Has there been any thickening of posterior capsule?
- Is there any vitreous activity

- Is the macula normal, specifically is there any CMO?
- Is there any other abnormality on the fundus?

Recording on the Webstar Portal:

All the above will need recording on the webstar portal. Additionally the following information from the sight test will need recording:

- Details of procedure undertaken
- Unaided vision
- Distance visual acuity, including with pinhole if VA<6/9
- Near VA
- Refraction results
- Is there any residual unacceptable anisometropia?
- IOP results

Any additional comments can be recorded in the appropriate section of the portal.

Outcomes of Post-Operative Check

The following are the possible outcomes:

1. If the patient is happy, the eye is white and vision is good:
 - a) Complete the patient report on Opera and select discharge.
 - b) Make a referral back to the HES using Opera for a second eye operation if required.
2. If there any signs of post-operative complications discussed at the Roll Out meetings, refer the patient back to the HES with the appropriate urgency. Use your normal method for referring these patients.

See attached protocol reminder for each Trust.

3. It is possible that some patients might simply benefit from a follow up visit at your practice after a few weeks. This would be an acceptable outcome, although is not recorded on the Opera IT system. Ensure you make detailed notes on your clinical records and copies of any advice you give the patient. No further fee is claimed.

Once a patient episode is complete, a report will automatically go to the Trust and a copy of this report also will be sent to the patient's GP. You will not need to send any

documentation in the post. A copy of the report can be printed for your notes and for the patient if you wish.

Recording for the National Cataract Audit

If you receive a referral from Broomfield hospital with a Medisoft PIN then please go onto the Medisoft portal to record the spectacle prescription and VAs. This is part of the National Cataract Audit. This can be completed by any trained staff member.

Equipment Required

In order to fully participate in the service, all optometric practices should have suitable equipment.

Only accredited Optometrists can see the patients discharged into the community for their post-op checks

It is expected that the required equipment would already be available, as most of it is used for the provision of GOS, for example:

- Slit lamp
- Fundus viewing lens (e.g. Volk)
- Tonometer
- Distance test chart (Snellen/logmar)
- Near test chart
- Appropriate ophthalmic drugs for pupil dilation
- Internet access