

Service Summary

West Essex

Post-Cataract Service

Aims

- Utilise the skills of primary care optometrists for patients who have undergone uncomplicated cataract surgery.
- Improve the patient journey by reducing the number of overall patient visits and to include as few visits to secondary care.
- Collecting consistent high quality clinical outcome data for audit purposes and improved patient outcomes.

Overview

- This is a Hertfordshire and West Essex ICB commissioned service in conjunction with Essex LOC and Primary Eyecare Services.
- The service is only for patients registered with a West Essex GP
- Patients undergoing uncomplicated cataract surgery will be transferred to accredited practices via the OPERA online platform for their post-op review

Service Information

Accreditation

- WOPEC online cataract module enables you to conduct post op cataract services on OPERA.
- Mandatory safeguarding and service briefing with Primary Eyecare Services Essex clinical lead

Service Specifications

- Practices will contact patients within 48 hours of transfer from the surgical provider, to arrange a post-op examination and refraction (GOS for those eligible).
- Assessment should be carried out **4-6 weeks** following the date of surgery.
- Review progress and medication compliance.
- Measure and collect Visual Acuity, residual refraction, and impact of surgery on quality of life (UK National Minimum Cataract Data set).
- Binocular indirect ophthalmoscopy including pupil dilation if required, (based on clinical judgment) and onward referral where co-existing eye disease is detected
- Identify any complications after surgery and prompt referral to specialist ophthalmologist services where required.
- Discuss the patient's satisfaction with the outcome of surgery.
- Discuss second eye surgery and onward referral where appropriate, ensuring the patient meets the local cataract surgery policy.

Patients who are not suitable for the service

- Those who had complications during their cataract surgery
- Those who have had cataract surgery by a private provider not funded by the NHS.
- Patients registered with a GP outside of the West Essex area.

Help and Support

Contact your local clinical lead or
hello@referral.support.

Full pathway information available
on <https://help.optom-referrals.org/article/376-cataract-pathway-protocols>.

