

OPHTHALMOLOGY

Procedure/Condition	Criteria ■ Black – criteria required to be met prior to referral. ■ Blue – criteria to be met prior to procedure
Cataract Surgery (Restricted)	<p>The CCGs will only fund cataract surgery as described below:</p> <p>FIRST EYE NB This criteria also applies to secondary care and community optometrists.</p> <p>Cataract surgery will be funded where the visual acuity after refractive correction is worse than 6/9 or worse in the worst eye (the eye to be treated) OR the patient has one of the following (with correction):</p> <p>Reduced mobility, experiencing difficulties in driving, for example, due to glare, or experiencing difficulty with steps or uneven ground Ability to work, give care or live independently is affected. OR The patient has diabetes, or retinal condition, and requires clear views of their retina to monitor their disease or treatment OR The patient has glaucoma and requires cataract surgery to control the intraocular pressure OR The patient has posterior subcapsular or cortical cataracts and experiences problems with glare and a reduction in acuity in bright conditions OR The patient's visual field defects are borderline for driving, and cataract extraction would be expected to significantly improve the visual field</p> <p>This information, together with a report from a recent sight test, should form the minimum data on the referral form</p> <p>SECOND EYE</p> <p>⇒ Cataract surgery will not be funded in the second eye if the first eye has achieved a visual acuity of 6/9 or better, with refractive correction, and the acuity of the second eye is 6/24 or better with refractive correction. These patients should be reviewed by their optometrist annually or earlier if there is any deterioration in vision.</p> <p>Cataract surgery in the second eye will be funded if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first does not achieve an acuity of 6/9 or better, with refractive correction, and the procedure is clinically indicated for the patient's individual circumstances • The patient has diabetes, or retinal condition, and requires clear views of their retina to monitor their disease or treatment • The patient has glaucoma and requires cataract surgery to control the intra ocular pressure • There is, after first eye operation, resultant anisometropia (a large refractive difference between the two eyes) which would
Secondary	

	<p>result in diplopia (double vision)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is uncorrectable loss of acuity in the second eye (with first eye corrected) that effectively renders the second eye vision worse than 6/24 <p>This information, together with a report from a recent sight test, should form the minimum data on the referral form.</p> <p>This procedure requires prior approval. Prior approval must be sought through Blueteq.</p>
Base / Evidence	The Royal College of Ophthalmologists Cataract Surgery Guidelines (2010); The Royal College of Ophthalmologists Commissioning Guidance (2015); Cooper et al. (2015) “ The cost-effectiveness of second –eye cataract surgery in the UK”; Kessel et al. (2016) “Indication for cataract surgery. Do we have evidence of who will benefit from surgery? A systematic review and meta-analysis”.
OPCS code(s):	C71, C72, C73, C74, C75

Version No	Date	Changes
3	Dec 2016	Modelling of revised policy options underway – policy update anticipated January 2017
3.3	July 2018	Visual acuity criteria for first eye surgery amended from ‘6/12 or worse’ to ‘worse than 6/9’
3.4	September 2019	The addition of ‘This policy is subject to a prior approval’ as requested by contracting.
3.5	October 2019	Removal of ‘This policy is subject to a prior approval’. Addition of ‘This procedure requires prior approval. Prior approval must be sought through Blueteq.’, as requested by contracting.
N/A	January 2021	Policy review date May 2021. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the rollout of the vaccination programme the policy review date has been extended by six months to November 2021.