

Cataract Referral supporting information

A New Policy has been published by NEW Devon CCG which is aimed to guide the referral process for Cataract Surgery.

In all cases it is imperative that several prerequisites are met:

- a) The patient understands that the purpose of referral is for assessment for surgery.
- b) The patient wishes to have surgery if it is offered.
- c) The patient meets the criteria for cataract surgery.

Once a) and b) are met tick the 'Cataract and patient wants surgery' box in the primary reason for referral section of the attached form.

To meet c) the criteria for referral are noted below and the extended version is available in the policy.

The primary circumstance for a referral is if the patients 'best corrected visual acuity of 6/12 or worse in the affected eye AND the patient experiences one or more of the following due to subjective loss of visual performance;

- Difficulty in accomplishing everyday tasks.
- Reduced mobility, visual problems when driving or experiencing difficulty with steps or uneven ground.
- Ability to work, act as a carer or live independently is affected.'

Referrals will be approved if the visual acuity is written in Snellen (6/12 or worse) or LogMAR (0.3 or worse).

If the patients visual acuity is better than 6/12 (Snellen) or 0.3 (LogMAR) there may be other circumstances in which a referral will be accepted under the policy. DRSS will require that the reason for this decision is clearly indicated in the 'Findings and Explanation' section.

If the patient does not meet the criteria, the patient will need to be informed that they do not meet the criteria for Cataract surgery and therefore will be treated on a 'watch and wait' basis, where they will need to contact their GP or Optician if their vision deteriorates.