**Cataract Referral Criteria for Staffordshire**

**5.5.1 Surgery for Cataracts**

 Commissioned when a patient meets the following criteria for each affected eye: ¬

* Visual Acuity:

• Metres 6/9 or worse

• US 20/30 or worse

• Decimal 0.66 or worse

• Log Mar 0.18 or worse

• VAS 91 or worse

**AND**

* The cataract affects the patient’s lifestyle:

• Difficulty carrying out everyday tasks such as recognising faces, watching TV, cooking, playing sport/cards etc.

• Reduced mobility, unable to drive or experiencing difficulty with steps or uneven ground.

• Ability to work, give care or live independently is affected

\*The Visual Acuity should clearly indicate which eye is refers to and which eye the cataract removal is being requested for.

Other indications for cataract surgery include; facilitating treatment for one or more of the following;

* Monitoring posterior segment disease e.g. diabetic retinopathy
* Correcting anisometropia
* Patient with Glaucoma who require cataracts surgery to counteract intraocular pressure

Patients with Single Sight (Monocular Vision):

The indications for cataract surgery in patients with monocular vision and those with severe reduction in one eye e.g. dense amblyopia are the same as for patients with binocular vision, but the ophthalmologist should explain the possibility of total blindness if severe complications occur.

**5.5.2 Laser Treatment of Myopia (short sightedness)**

Not routinely commissioned

**5.5.3 Implantable Intraocular Lens Systems for Age-Related Macular Degeneration**

Not routinely commissioned

**5.5.4 Screening for diabetic retinopathy by consultant ophthalmologists**

Not routinely commissioned

**5.5.5 Screening for glaucoma by consultant ophthalmologists**

Not routinely commissioned