

March 2021

Post Op Cataract Service Pathway & Protocols

V1.0



Outline

The post-operative cataract pathway is designed to improve the patient journey by reducing the number of patient visits overall and to include as few visits to secondary care as possible. It provides a comparable service for people who are unable to leave their home unaccompanied but who are able to attend for surgery.

Purpose of Service

Using the skills of primary care optical practices to support post cataract follow ups for those who have had uncomplicated cataract surgery, patient care will be improved by:

- Providing a rapid access, high quality service to patients post surgery
- Ensuring equity of service including provision to housebound individuals
- Reducing the total number of patient visits
- Reducing the number of visits the patient makes to secondary care
- Reducing waiting lists
- Supporting care closer to home
- Providing accurate data about outcomes and patient satisfaction

Description

Post-operative Cataract Service

Following day case cataract surgery at the treatment centre the Patient is discharged with appropriate instructions and medication. If the patient experiences a red or painful eye in the weeks following the operation, they are instructed to seek help immediately from the treatment centre. If all is well the Patient will be instructed to visit the referring optometrist after 4-6 weeks for the final post-op examination and GOS refraction.

The treatment centre will transfer the patient to the optical practice of patient's choice via Opera.

Optical practices should accept the referral and contact the patient within 48hrs to arrange their 4-6 week post op cataract review.

The appointment for the post-operative check will include:

- Review progress and medication:
 - Symptoms and history related to cataract surgery.
 - Drop compliance.
 - Visions with and without pinhole if applicable.
 - Volk assessment.
- Arrange follow-up for co-existing eye disease, if not previously arranged.
- Discuss second eye surgery where appropriate.
- Collect outcome data.
- Provide advice on spectacle prescription (which can be prescribed approximately 4-6 weeks following phacoemulsification).

Outcomes:

If the Patient is happy, the eye is white, and vision is good the optometrist will:

- Complete the Opera IT reporting form and send appropriate information to the treatment centre and GP within 48 hours of seeing the patient
- Refer to the treatment centre for second eye op if appropriate in line with local protocol
- Discharge the Patient and advise on the interval before next routine sight test.
- If there any signs of post-operative complications the optometrist will refer back to the treatment centre with the appropriate urgency – this will be via the Opera platform for all referrals with the appropriate additional requirements such as telephone calls for urgent/emergency referrals.

Equality Monitoring & Patient Experience Feedback

As part of the requirement to monitor this service all providers will be required to collect patient Equality & Diversity information. Patient Experience Feedback will be received via SMS function in the early days after the patient has completed their episode of care and practitioner input the results into the Opera IT platform. Note this will be at the end of the pathway after the final repeats.

Equipment

All practices contracted to supply the service will be expected to employ an accredited practitioner and have the following equipment available.

- Access to the Internet
- Means of indirect ophthalmoscopy (Volk/headset indirect ophthalmoscope)
- Slit lamp
- Applanation Tonometer
- Distance test chart (Snellen/LogMar) / Near test type
- Threshold fields equipment to produce a printed report
- Appropriate ophthalmic drugs
 - Mydriatic / Anaesthetic / Staining agents

Competencies

All participating practitioners will have the core competencies as defined by the GOC and must meet the accreditation requirements as below.

Participating practitioners must complete the Cardiff University/LOCSU Cataract Distance Learning modules. (There maybe some local additional accreditation requirements in some areas)

Also, all practitioners partaking in the provision of the service must also completed Safeguarding Level 2 training. For optometrists this is the DOCET Children's and Adult's Safeguarding Certificate.

In addition, all practitioners must have a valid Enhanced DBS (Disclosure and Barring) certificate with the update service.

Participating practitioners will also be expected to keep their knowledge and skills up to date.

Post Cataract Care Pathway

