
University Hospital Southampton
NHS Foundation Trust

Post-operative Cataract Pathway &
Protocols



Service Provided by:



Outline Description

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 follow up of uncomplicated patients, patient care will be improved by:

- Provide a rapid access, high quality service to patients with cataract
- Ensure equity of service including provision to housebound individuals
- Reduce the total number of patient visits
- Reduce the number of visits the patient makes to secondary care
- Reduce waiting lists
- Improve the quality of referrals
- Support care closer to home
- Provide accurate data about outcomes and patient satisfaction

Description

Post-operative Cataract Service

Following day case cataract surgery or YAG Laser (for Post Capsular Opacification) 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.

Outcomes

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

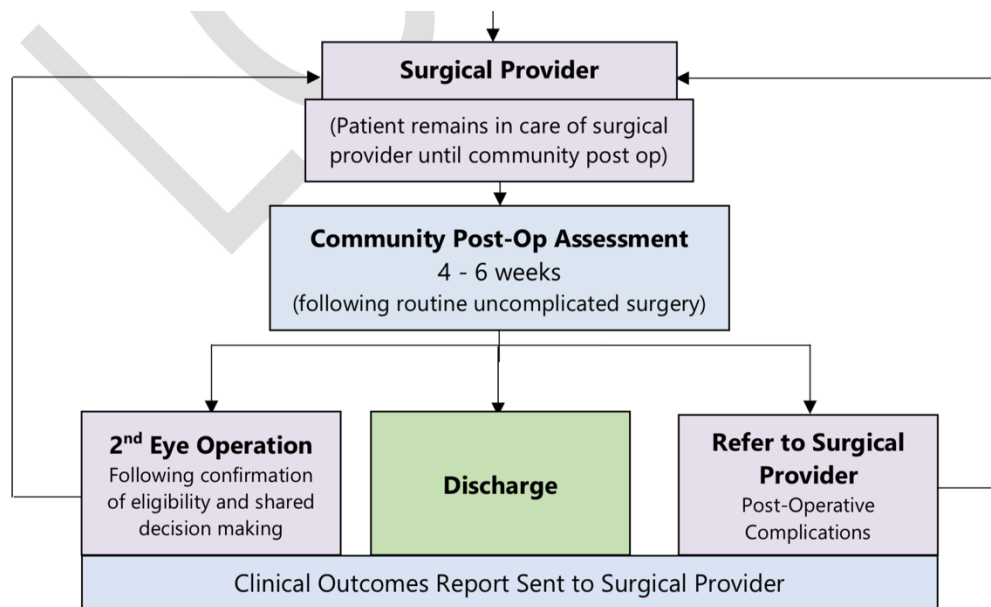
- Complete the IT reporting form and send appropriate information to the treatment centre and GP within 24 hours of seeing the patient
- Refer to the treatment centre for second eye op if appropriate in line with local protocol
- Discharge the Patient and advise on the interval before next routine GOS ST

- 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 platform for routine referrals and via local protocol where it is urgent.

Domiciliary Patients

To qualify for a domiciliary GOS sight test, the patient must fall into one of the NHS eligibility categories and be unable to leave home unaccompanied. Generally, the post-operative cataract assessment will be carried out in their home.

Post-operative Cataract Pathway



Equality Monitoring & Patient Experience Feedback

As part of the requirement to monitor this service all providers will be required to provide patients with an Equality & Diversity and Patient Experience Feedback questionnaire and input the results into the IT platform. Note this will be at the end of the cataract pathway after a completed follow up.

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
- Fax machine to enable confidential urgent referral if required (until alternative arrangements are put in place)
- Means of indirect ophthalmoscopy (Volk/headset indirect ophthalmoscope)
- Slit lamp
- Contact tonometer
- Distance test chart (Snellen/logmar) / Near test type
- 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 WOPEC Cardiff University/LOCSU Cataract Distance Learning modules.

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.

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

