

# Policy for Cataract Surgery

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Version:	Version 3
Name of responsible Committee and date approved or recommended to Integrated Care Board:	Finance and Performance Committee
Date approved by the Integrated Care Board (if applicable):	01/04/2026
Next Review Date:	01/10/2028
Expiry Date:	01/04/2029
Name of author and title:	Lucy Dyde, IFR Manager
Name of reviewer and title:	Dr Mike Caley, Deputy Medical Director
Department:	Medical Directorate

## VERSION HISTORY

Date	Version	Changes made to previous version	Consulting and Endorsing Stakeholders, Committees / Meetings / Forums etc.
17.04.2023	V2	Adoption of Non mandatory NICE guidance recommendation to not restrict access to cataract surgery on the basis of visual acuity.	Clinical Commissioning Policy Development Group - 18 April 2023
01/04/2026	V3	No revisions required. There has been no update to guidance, last reviewed by NICE March 2025:  A literature search was conducted in March 2025 to identify evidence-based guidelines, UK policy, systematic reviews, and key	Approved by Individual Funding Request Manager 01/04/2026 under Category 1 of the ICB's Policy Approval and Management Policy.

		<p>randomised controlled trials published since the last revision of this topic. There have been no major changes to the recommendations.</p> <p><a href="#">Changes</a>   <a href="#">How up-to-date is this topic?</a>   <a href="#">Cataracts</a>   <a href="#">CKS</a>   <a href="#">NICE</a></p>	
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## 1. Category: Threshold

Where a clinician makes a decision whether a patient meets the evidence-based thresholds for treatment defined in the NHS Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board's (ICB) policy.

## 2. Indication

Cataracts

## 3. Referral for Cataract Surgery

- Base the decision to refer a person for cataract surgery on a discussion with them (and their family or carers, as appropriate) that includes:
  - How the cataract affects their vision and quality of life.
  - Whether one or both eyes are affected.
  - What surgery involves, including the [risks and benefits](#).
    - This is discussed in a patient information leaflet [Understanding cataracts \(pdf\)](#) produced jointly by the Royal College of Ophthalmologists and Royal National Institute of Blind People.
    - Further information on shared decision making is also provided in the [NHS England Decision support tool](#).
  - How their quality of life may be affected if they choose not to have surgery.
  - Whether they want to have surgery.

**Do not restrict access to cataract surgery on the basis of visual acuity.**

## 4. Eligibility Criteria

- Cataract surgery will be commissioned for patients who are experiencing difficulties with vision and or quality of life due to the presence of a cataract.
- Referrals for cataract surgery should not be based simply on the presence of a cataract.
- Cataract surgery will not be commissioned solely for the purpose of correcting longstanding pre-existing myopia and hypermetropia.
- Cataract surgery will be supported where there is binocular disparity/imbalance (anisometropia).
- Treatment will also be commissioned for the second eye where not treating would have a significant effect on the patient's vision.
- Cataract surgery will also be funded in situations where it is indicated for screening or management of other ocular co-morbidities e.g., for control of glaucoma, or for adequate view of diabetic retinopathy.
- Visual acuity should be included in the referral as there is a higher risk of worse visual acuity after surgery where preoperatively it was very good e.g., 6/6 or better. It should

only then be considered if the patient is experiencing significant symptoms attributable to the cataract.

## **5. References**

[NICE: Management of cataracts in adults](#) - accessed March 2023.

[ROC: Commissioning Guide: Adult Cataract Surgery](#)

## 6. Equality and Quality Impact Assessment Tool

The following assessment screening tool will require judgement against all listed areas of risk in relation to quality. Each proposal will need to be assessed whether it will impact adversely on patients / staff / organisations.

**Insert your assessment as positive (P), negative (N) or neutral (N/A) for each area.**

Record your reasons for arriving at that conclusion in the comments column. If the assessment is negative, you must also calculate the score for the impact and likelihood and multiply the two to provide the overall risk score. Insert the total in the appropriate box.

### Quality Impact Assessment

#### Quality and Equality Impact Assessment

<b>Scheme Title:</b>	Policy for Cataract Surgery		
<b>Project Lead:</b>	Lucy Dyde, IFR Team Manager	<b>Senior Responsible Officer:</b>	Dr Angela Brady
		<b>Quality Sign Off:</b>	Mary Mansfield
<b>Intended impact of scheme:</b>	<p>To provide a fair, equitable and transparent process for all patients of the NHS Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board (ICB), for which the ICB has commissioning responsibility.</p> <p>The policy for Cataract Surgery supports the objective to prioritise resources and provide interventions with the greatest proven health gain, within ICB budgetary constraints. The intention is to ensure equity and fairness in respect of access to NHS funding for interventions and to ensure that interventions are provided within the context of the needs of the overall population and the evidence of clinical and cost effectiveness.</p>		
<b>How will it be achieved:</b>	Through the process detailed in this document.		

<b>Name of person completing assessment:</b>	Lucy Dyde & Dr Gordana Djuric
<b>Position:</b>	IFR Team Manager & Public Health Consultant
<b>Date of Assessment:</b>	19 April 2023

<b>Quality Review by:</b>	Mary Mansfield
<b>Position:</b>	Deputy Director of Nursing
<b>Date of Review:</b>	18 May 2023

### **High level Quality and Equality Questions**

The risk rating is only to be done for the potential negative outcomes. We are looking to assess the likelihood of the negative outcome occurring and the level of negative impact. We are also seeking detail of mitigation actions that may help reduce this likelihood and potential impact.

AREA OF ASSESSMENT		OUTCOME ASSESSMENT (Please tick one)			Evidence/Comments for answers	Risk rating (For negative outcomes)			Mitigating actions
		Positive	Negative	Neutral		Risk impact (I)	Risk likelihood (L)	Risk Score (IxL)	
<b>Duty of Quality</b> Could the scheme impact positively or negatively on any of the following:	Effectiveness – clinical outcome	✓							
	Patient experience	✓							
	Patient safety	✓							
	Parity of esteem	✓							

	Safeguarding children or adults			✓					
<b>NHS Outcomes Framework</b> Could the scheme impact positively or negatively on the delivery of the five domains:	Enhancing quality of life	✓							
	Ensuring people have a positive experience of care	✓							
	Preventing people from dying prematurely			✓					
	Helping people recover from episodes of ill health or following injury	✓							
	Treating and caring for people in a safe environment and protecting them from avoidable harm	✓							
<b>Patient services</b> Could the proposal impact positively or negatively on any of the following:	A modern model of integrated care, with key focus on multiple long-term conditions and clinical risk factors	✓							
	Access to the highest quality urgent and emergency care			✓					
	Convenient access for everyone	✓		✓					

	Ensuring that citizens are fully included in all aspects of service design and change			✓					
	Patient Choice	✓							
	Patients are fully empowered in their own care	✓		✓					
	Wider primary care, provided at scale			✓					
<b>Access</b> Could the proposal impact positively or negatively on any of the following:	Patient choice	✓							
	Access	✓							
	Integration	✓							
<b>Compliance with NHS Constitution</b>	Quality of care and environment	✓							
	Nationally approved treatment/drugs	✓							
	Respect, consent and confidentiality	✓							
	Informed choice and involvement	✓							
	Complain and redress			✓					

\*Risk score definitions are provided in the next section.

## Equality Impact Assessment

### Project / Policy Details

#### What is the aim of the project / policy?

To provide a fair, equitable and transparent process for all patients of the NHS Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board (ICB), for which the ICB has commissioning responsibility.

The policy for Cataract Surgery supports the objective to prioritise resources and provide interventions with the greatest proven health gain, within ICB budgetary constraints. The intention is to ensure equity and fairness in respect of access to NHS funding for interventions and to ensure that interventions are provided within the context of the needs of the overall population and the evidence of clinical and cost effectiveness.

#### Who will be affected by this work? e.g staff, patients, service users, partner organisations etc.

Patients

#### Is a full Equality Analysis Required for this project?

Yes

Proceed to complete this form.

No

Explain why further equality analysis is not required.

If no, explain below why further equality analysis is not required. For example, the decision concerned may not have been made by the ICB or it is very clear that it will not have any impact on patients or staff.

### Equality Analysis Form

#### 1. Evidence used

**What evidence have you identified and considered?** This can include national research, surveys, reports, NICE guidelines, focus groups, pilot activity evaluations, clinical experts or working groups, JSNA or other equality analyses.

[NICE: Management of cataracts in adults](#) - accessed March 2023.

[ROC: Commissioning Guide: Adult Cataract Surgery](#)

## 2. Impact and Evidence:

In the following boxes detail the findings and impact identified (positive or negative) within the research detailed above; this should also include any identified health inequalities which exist in relation to this work.

**Age:** A person belonging to a particular age (e.g. 32 year olds) or a range of ages (e.g. 18-30 year olds)

This policy does not contain any statements which may exclude clinicians of the NHS Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board from applying this policy. However, Cataracts are more common with age. This policy will be applied equally to all patients, irrespective of age.

**Disability:** A person has a disability if he/she has a physical, hearing, visual or mental impairment, which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on that person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities

This policy does not contain any statements which may exclude clinicians of the NHS Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board from applying this policy.

**Gender reassignment (including transgender):** Where a person has proposed, started or completed a process to change his or her sex.

This policy does not contain any statements which may exclude clinicians of the NHS Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board from applying this policy.

**Marriage and civil partnership:** A person who is married or in a civil partnership.

This policy does not contain any statements which may exclude clinicians of the NHS Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board from applying this policy.

**Pregnancy and maternity:** A woman is protected against discrimination on the grounds of pregnancy and maternity. With regard to employment, the woman is protected during the period of her pregnancy and any statutory maternity leave to which she is entitled. Also, it is unlawful to discriminate against women breastfeeding in a public place.

This policy does not contain any statements which may exclude clinicians of the NHS Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board from applying this policy.

**Race:** A group of people defined by their race, colour, and nationality (including citizenship) ethnic or national origins.

This policy does not contain any statements which may exclude clinicians of the NHS Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board from applying this policy. However, Cataracts are associated with diabetes. Type 1 diabetes tends to be more prevalent in people of European origin. Type 2 diabetes tends to be more prevalent in people of South Asian, African and African Caribbean origin. There is potential for over-representation of these group in terms of uptake of the policy (compared to the general population distribution by ethnicity). This policy will be applied equally to all patients, irrespective of ethnic background.

**Religion or belief:** A group of people defined by their religious and philosophical beliefs including lack of belief (e.g. atheism). Generally a belief should affect an individual's life choices or the way

in which they live.
This policy does not contain any statements which may exclude clinicians of the NHS Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board from applying this policy.
<b>Sex:</b> A man or a woman
This policy does not contain any statements which may exclude clinicians of the NHS Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board from applying this policy.
<b>Sexual orientation:</b> Whether a person feels generally attracted to people of the same gender, people of a different gender, or to more than one gender (whether someone is heterosexual, lesbian, gay or bisexual).
This policy does not contain any statements which may exclude clinicians of the NHS Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board from applying this policy.
<b>Carers:</b> A person who cares, unpaid, for a friend or family member who due to illness, disability, a mental health problem or an addiction cannot cope without their support
This policy does not contain any statements which may exclude clinicians of the NHS Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board from applying this policy.
<b>Other disadvantaged groups:</b>
This policy does not contain any statements which may exclude clinicians of the NHS Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board from applying this policy.

3. Human Rights		
FREDA Principles / Human Rights	Question	Response
<b>Fairness</b> – Fair and equal access to services	How will this respect a person's entitlement to access this service?	<p>To provide a fair, equitable and transparent process for all patients of the NHS Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board (ICB), for which the ICB has commissioning responsibility.</p> <p>The policy for Cataract Surgery supports the objective to prioritise resources and provide interventions with the greatest proven health gain, within ICB budgetary constraints. The intention is to ensure equity and fairness</p>

		in respect of access to NHS funding for interventions and to ensure that interventions are provided within the context of the needs of the overall population and the evidence of clinical and cost effectiveness.
<b>Respect</b> – right to have private and family life respected	How will the person’s right to respect for private and family life, confidentiality and consent be upheld?	The patient will not be contacted by the ICB. If the patient contacts the ICB of their own accord then all communication, written or verbal, will be provided in a confidential, clear, understandable, format.
<b>Equality</b> – right not to be discriminated against based on your protected characteristics	How will this process ensure that people are not discriminated against and have their needs met and identified?	This policy is applied to all patients of the NHS Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board to prioritise resources and provide interventions with the greatest proven health gain, within ICB budgetary constraints. The intention is to ensure equity and fairness in respect of access to NHS funding for interventions and to ensure that interventions are provided within the context of the needs of the overall population and the evidence of clinical and cost effectiveness.
<b>Dignity</b> – the right not to be treated in a degrading way	How will you ensure that individuals are not being treated in an inhuman or degrading way?	All communication, written or verbal, will be provided in a confidential, clear, understandable, format.
<b>Autonomy</b> – right to respect for private & family life; being able to make informed decisions and choices	How will individuals have the opportunity to be involved in discussions and decisions about their own healthcare?	Individuals will have the opportunity to discuss their healthcare with the requesting clinician.  If the patient contacts the ICB of their own accord then all

		communication, written or verbal, will be provided in a confidential, clear, understandable, format.
Right to <b>Life</b>	Will or could it affect someone's right to life? How?	No
Right to <b>Liberty</b>	Will or could someone be deprived of their liberty? How?	No

<b>4. Engagement, Involvement and Consultation</b>		
If relevant, please state what engagement activity has been undertaken and the date and with which protected groups:		
<b>Engagement Activity</b>	<b>Protected Characteristic/ Group/ Community</b>	<b>Date</b>
N/A	N/A	N/A
For each engagement activity, please state the key feedback and how this will shape policy / service decisions (E.g. patient told us .... So we will .....):		
N/A		

<b>5. Mitigations and Changes</b>
Please give an outline of what you are going to do, based on the gaps, challenges and opportunities you have identified in the summary of analysis section. This might include action(s) to mitigate against any actual or potential adverse impacts, reduce health inequalities, or promote social value. Identify the <b>recommendations</b> and any <b>changes</b> to the proposal arising from the equality analysis.
N/A

<b>6. How will you measure how the proposal impacts health inequalities?</b>
e.g Patients with a learning disability were accessing cancer screening in substantially lower numbers than other patients. By revising the pathway the ICB is able to show increased take up from this group, this is a positive impact on health inequalities.
You can also detail how and when the service will be monitored and what key equality performance indicators or reporting requirements will be included within the contract.
Acute Contracting/Business Intelligence will monitor the activity and review as appropriate.
<b>7. Is further work required to complete this assessment?</b>
Please state what work is required and to what section. e.g additional consultation or engagement is required to fully understand the impact on a particular protected group (e.g disability).

<b>Work needed</b>	<b>Section</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Dare completed</b>
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

### 8. Sign off

The Equality Analysis will need to go through a process of **quality assurance** by a Senior Manager within the department responsible for the service concerned before being submitted to the Policy, Procedure and Strategy Assurance Group for approval. Committee approval of the policy / project can only be sought once approval has been received from the Policy, Procedure and Strategy Assurance Group.

<b>Requirement</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Date</b>
Senior Manager Signoff	Michael Caley, Deputy CMO	19.04.2023
Which committee will be considering the findings and signing off the EA?	F&P	04.10.2023
Approved by the Policy Procedure and Strategy Assurance Group.		

Once complete, please send to the ICB's Governance Team