

**Clinical Guideline:** Cataracts Site: FPH

Gradual onset blurred vision.

History

General Information

There may be other reasons to remove the cataract such as raised eye pressure, or the cataracts are affecting the patient’s employment

Advice and Treatment

**Consider referral if:**

* Patient would like surgery AND
* Vision 6/12 or worse in both eyes (Hampshire)
* Vision worse than 6/9 in both eyes (Surrey)
* Any eye with vision 6/18 or worse
* Driver and does not meet Driving and Licensing Authority (DVLA) eyesight requirements (can see number plate at 20m)
* Patients should only undergo surgery of the second eye when that eye falls below the above threshold, unless second eye surgery is required to prevent visual imbalance (anisometropia).
* Any suspicion of cataracts in children (absence of red reflex) should be referred urgently.

Referral Guidelines – red flag signs

Referrals for cataract surgery should only be made after an assessment from an optometrist, unless there are exceptional reasons why this has not been possible.

Investigation

Examination