

Cataract Choice: Information for Patients

Your optometrist is referring you to be assessed for cataract surgery. The NHS Cataract Choice scheme was introduced to give patients more choice about where and when they are treated. You will be offered a choice of hospitals to be referred to for your assessment for cataract surgery. **The choice will be yours.**

This leaflet will tell you:

- How the scheme works and what you can expect.
- How to make a choice and who you can talk to about the choices available.
- How to book an appointment at the hospital of your choice.

Step One – Making your choice

Read this leaflet and consider the hospital you would like to be referred to. It is advised that you discuss the options with your family, friends or carer/s. You are able to choose from any hospital offering the treatment. You may want to find out more about the different hospitals available. If so, you can contact the Patient Choice Office, who are available to answer your questions, or visit www.nhs.uk and review the options available to you. A 'patient decision aid' is also available at <http://sdm.rightcare.nhs.uk/pda/cataracts> if you need help to decide whether or not you want to consider surgery at this time.

Step Two – Contact the Patient Choice Office

It is advisable to contact the Patient Choice Office at least two working days after you are referred to make sure that all your referral information has been received. An advisor will be available Monday to Friday between 9.30am and 4.30pm on telephone number 0300 303 0060 (this will be charged at local rate). In some cases the Patient Choice Office will be able to offer you a range of appointment options; alternatively, your referral will be forwarded to your chosen hospital who will contact you directly to arrange an appointment.

Some things to consider in making your choice

Before making your choice about which hospital you wish to be referred to, we advise that you consider these questions:

- Do you understand why you are being referred for further assessment?
- Do you understand what kind of treatment you may require?
- What are your main priorities for choosing a hospital?
- Do you feel you have been given enough information about the hospitals?
- Do you understand the information you have been given?
- Would you like to get more information from the Patient Choice Office or through the internet?
- Would you like to discuss your options with your family or friends?