

<NAME OF OUTPATIENT CLINIC>

Patient Referral Form

<Address of clinic>

Assessment for  
Cataract Surgery

<Phone, fax and email of clinic>

## Guidance for the referrer

**The information provided here is to support referrers to complete the Patient Referral Form - Assessment for Cataract Surgery. If you have any questions about this Patient Referral Form, or this guidance information, please contact the Outpatient Service Unit noted above.**

### Patient / client details

This section requires referrers to provide sufficient information to correctly match a patient with existing hospital records, ensure the records are complete, or to create a new hospital record. It also seeks confirmation of the patient's understanding that they are being referred for assessment for cataract surgery.

All information in this section is required to be completed.

### Clinical details

This section requires referrers to provide clinical information regarding the patient's condition and the reason for their referral.

The following information should be read **prior to completing** the Patient Referral Form for Assessment for Cataract Surgery to ensure that assessment for surgery is the best option.

#### BEST CORRECTED VISUAL ACUITY (BCVA)

Early cataract may be found during an optometrist or ophthalmologist's examination, and yet functionally good vision achieved with an adjustment in the prescription of previous distance glasses. Early cataract can also coincide with the need to wear distance glasses for the first time for up to 30% of people older than 60 years, and cataract surgery may be unnecessary for these people for many years, where new glasses provide satisfactory visual acuity.

#### INDICATIONS FOR CATARACT SURGERY

Assessment for cataract surgery is warranted where the following indications exist:

- Functional visual impairment, despite wearing appropriate distance spectacle correction, which interferes with everyday visual tasks, eg reading, driving, hobbies and safe mobility.
- Advanced cataract poses a high risk of secondary complications such as lens capsule rupture and corneal decompensation.
- Cataract extraction can aid the management of ocular comorbidities, in particular, narrow angle glaucoma and retinal disease.

#### SPECIAL NOTES FOR OPTOMETRISTS

An ocular examination by an optometrist to evaluate early cataract when considering referral to a public hospital eye clinic for assessment for cataract surgery should include:

1. refraction
2. slit lamp detailed assessment of lens opacity
3. Intraocular pressure and optic disc assessment
4. retinal examination at a more detailed level than can be achieved with direct ophthalmoscopy, including detection of diabetic retinopathy for diabetics
5. detection of other eye abnormalities.

Examination outcomes should be noted in the 'Other details if required' section on page 2 of the Patient Referral Form, or provided as an attachment to the form.

### Referrer details

This section requires referrers to provide their details, including their provider number and contact information, and sign the referral.

The Patient Referral Form for Assessment for Cataract Surgery would ideally be completed consultatively between the patient's regular GP, who can provide a summary of the patient's clinical history, and their optometrist, who can provide outcomes of the detailed ocular exam.