

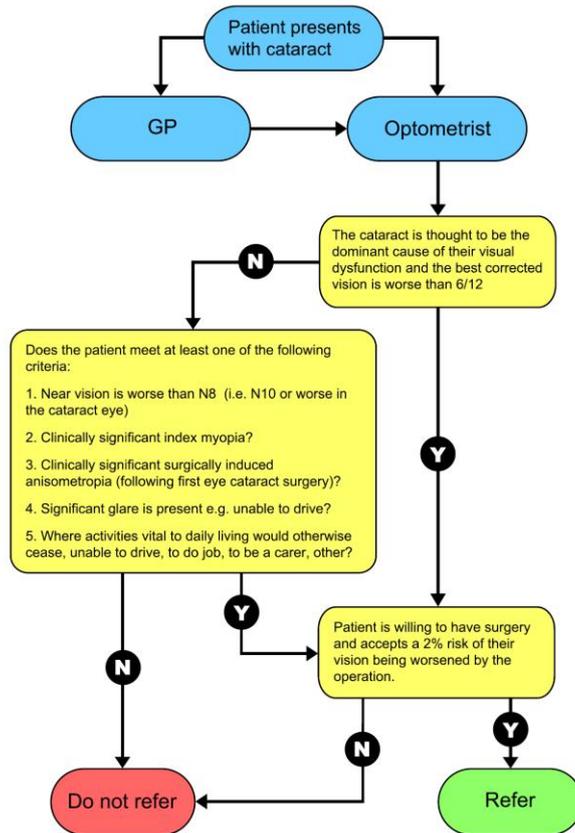
Ophthalmology – Cataract – Patient Pathway

Cataract Referral Guidelines

(Each eye is a separate referral but is assessed using the same criteria)



Note: referrals should only be from optometry as they alone can complete the mandatory fields in the standardised referral form.



Posterior capsule opacification (PCO) is the commonest complication of cataract surgery. It is caused by the proliferation of lens epithelial cells left behind following cataract surgery. The cells migrate behind the intraocular lens implant (IOL) to obscure the visual axis and reduce the patients visual function similar to that experienced with the original cataract. If PCO occurs vision may be restored by a laser capsulotomy. As patients are discharged soon after cataract surgery it is essential that they are warned of the potential problem of PCO and advised to seek attention if they feel their vision deteriorates. Regular optometry review will ensure that PCO is detected and further referral to the HES may be organised as necessary.