

## Cataract Direct Referral

A service to make referral for cataract surgery simpler and more patient focussed. All Opticians' practices in Norfolk & Waveney are participate in the scheme. The procedure is as follows

Following an eye examination, the optometrist determines spectacles will not meet the needs of the patient and will advise cataract surgery. The optometrist explains the procedures involved and if the patient agrees he/she will be referred to an eye clinic. The patient is given written information about "**Cataracts**" and "**How to Book Your Appointment**", including a list of the centres where cataract surgery is performed in Norfolk & Waveney. The patient is advised to read this information carefully and choose one of the centres where he/she would like to have the surgery.

The optometrist sends the patient's contact details and a report the findings from the eye examination to one of the Referral Centres and a copy to the GP. On receiving the report the Referral Centre staff telephones the patient to ask which cataract centre has been chosen and arranges a pre-operative examination appointment. At the pre-operative assessment, ***if surgery is deemed appropriate***, the patient will be offered a date for the operation.

Following surgery the patient is advised to wait about six weeks for the refractive error to stabilise before returning to the optometrist for a new spectacle correction.

In North, Central and South Norfolk CCG areas the patient is given a discharge pack to take to an **accredited Community Optometrist**, who will see the patient one week Post-op for the final post-operative assessment.

## Cataract Post-Operative Assessment

Before being discharged following cataract surgery, the patient will need to attend a final post-operative examination. For patients whose surgery went well and are at low risk of complications, this final assessment can be conducted by an **Accredited Community Optometrist**. This saves another trip to the hospital and may be combined with a sight test to determine if new spectacles are appropriate. The Optometrists providing this service have undergone further training and accreditation.