

## **NORTHERN IRELAND POST- OPERATIVE CATARACT PATHWAY**

### **Post-Operative Cataract Care in primary care Optometry practice (follow up after surgery)**

You have been identified as a suitable patient to have your follow up appointment carried out by a local optometrist (optician).

You will still receive the same level of care and undergo the same type of tests as you would in hospital.

#### **What do you need to do?**

Contact your local optometrist to arrange an appointment which should take place 6 weeks after your cataract surgery but no later than 12 weeks.

Most optometrists in Northern Ireland are providing this service. If your chosen optometrist does not provide it they will direct you to the other practices in your area that do provide it.

You have been given a patient identifier number called a Medisoft PIN by the hospital. When booking the appointment please tell the Optometry practice your Medisoft PIN and the date that you had your cataract surgery.

Patient Name	
Medisoft PIN	
Date of cataract surgery	

#### **What happens at the appointment?**

Your optometrist will examine your eyes to ensure there are no problems following your surgery. They will test your glasses prescription as there is often a change in your prescription after cataract surgery. If a change is found, you can usually have your glasses updated at this stage.

Following this review your optometrist will send details about your follow-up back to the hospital, including how well you are seeing and how you rated your experience. This is important to ensure the operation has been successful and has worked for you.

Your eye examination will be funded by the health service on this occasion even if you normally pay for your sight test.

Your optometrist may advise after the examination that you would benefit from a change to your glasses. If you normally receive help towards the cost of your glasses, this will apply as normal.

If the optometrist finds any complications connected to your surgery they will arrange for you to have a further appointment at the hospital.

**Important - If you notice any changes in your sight or develop a red or painful eye at any time before the 6 week review appointment with your optometrist is due please contact the hospital where you had your surgery for advice.**

### **Hospital Contact Numbers.**

1. Altnagelvin Hospital 028 71345171 (ask for the eye doctor on call)
2. Downe Hospital Day Procedure Centre **028 44838024/25**
3. Mater Hospital Day Procedure Unit **028 95041390/91**
4. Mid Ulster Hospital Day Surgery Unit **028 79366886**
5. Royal Victoria Hospital Ward 28 **028 96150394**
6. South Tyrone Hospital Day Procedure Centre **028 37567290**

If surgery was carried out at another site:

- Contact Altnagelvin Hospital (number above) if the surgery was carried out in the Western or Northern Trust areas
- Contact Royal Victoria Hospital (number above) if the surgery was carried out in the Belfast, South Eastern or Southern Trust areas

In an out of hours emergency, contact:

- Royal Victoria Hospital Emergency Department **028 9063 2250**
- Altnagelvin Hospital **028 71345171 (ask for the eye doctor on call)**

