

Multi-focal (non-accommodative) intraocular lenses in treatment of patients with cataracts Exceptional funding request

Multi-focal (non-accommodative) intraocular lenses are **not commissioned** for treatment of patients with cataracts.

Current evidence indicates that compared with standard treatment using monocular lenses, the balance of costs, adverse effects and benefits does not support commissioning for adults with cataracts.

Before consideration of referral for management in secondary care, please review advice on the Remedy website (www.remedy.bnssgicc.nhs.uk/) or consider use of advice and guidance services where available.

If the patient in question is clinically exceptional compared to the cohort, then an Exceptional Funding Application may be appropriate. The only time when an EFR application should be submitted is when there is a strong argument for clinical exceptionality to be made. EFR applications will only be considered where evidence of clinical exceptionality is provided within the case history/primary care notes in conjunction with a fully populated EFR application form.

BNSSG ICB is responsible for making the best use of the NHS funds allocated to us to meet the health needs of our local population. The demand for services is greater than the resources available and therefore we have to prioritise the use of funds carefully. Our approach is to prioritise commissioning treatments, operations or drugs that are most effective in meeting the health needs of the population. All operations carry significant risks and where symptoms are mild or moderate it is likely that the risks outweigh the benefits. Not all conditions progress and when symptoms can be managed conservatively, that is the safest option.

Multi focal (non-accommodative) intraocular lenses– Plain Language Summary

In a consultation document issued in March 2010, NICE notes that: 'A cataract is an eye condition in which the lens becomes cloudy over time, thereby affecting eyesight. During

cataract surgery, the clouded lens is removed and replaced with an artificial lens, which provides clearer vision. Unlike standard intraocular lenses (IOLs), multifocal (non-accommodative) IOLs have areas with different focusing power with the aim of allowing near and distant objects to be seen without the need for spectacles.’

On evidence of effectiveness, NICE notes that multifocal (non-accommodative) intraocular lenses ‘can provide good near and distance vision without the need for spectacles, but this is at the expense of a variety of potential visual disturbances.’ The provisional recommendation, subject to consultation, is that special consent procedures are needed. A Canadian evidence review notes that ‘there is no significant difference in best corrected distance visual acuity between multifocal and monofocal IOLs for the treatment of age-related cataracts’.

Conclusions from these evidence reviews are consistent with local consultant ophthalmologist advice.

This policy has been developed with the aid of the following:

1. [Overview | Implantation of multifocal \(non-accommodative\) intraocular lenses during cataract surgery | Guidance | NICE](#)
2. [Cataract surgery - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)

Due regard

In carrying out their functions, the Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Clinical Policy Review Group (CPRG) are committed to having due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED). This applies to all the activities for which the ICB are responsible, including policy development and review.

Document Control

Document Title	Multi focal (non-accommodative) intraocular lenses in treatment of patients with cataracts
Author(s) job title(s):	Commissioning Policy Development Team
Document version:	2324.02.00
Supersedes:	
Discussed at Commissioning Policy Review Group (CPRG):	24.10.23

Approval Route (see <u>Governance</u>):	Level 2
Approval Date	12.12.23
Date of Adoption:	01.02.24
Publication/issue date:	01.02.24
Review due date:	Earliest of either NICE publication or three years from approval.

Governance

Commissioning policies are assessed for their likely level of impact on BNSSG ICB and the population for which it is responsible. This determines the appropriate level of sign off. The below described the approval route for each score category.

Policy Category	Approval By
Level 1	Commissioning Policy Review Group.
Level 2	Chief Medical Officer, or Chief Nursing Officer, or System Executive Group Chair
Level 3	ICB Board

OPCS Procedure codes

Must have any of (primary only): TBC

Support

If you would like further copies of this policy or need it in another format, such as Braille or another language, please contact the Customer Services Team on: **0117 900 2655** or **0800 073 0907** or email them on BNSSG.customerservice@nhs.net.