

Dear Colleagues,

BSW CCG will be starting a pilot study on Monday 2 August 2021 for all patients referred for cataract surgery that meet the pilot study inclusion criteria, namely routine referrals without sight threatening co-morbidities.

It has been found that only 70% of those referred for cataract surgery, and attend a pre-surgery cataract assessment, opt to proceed with surgery.

The main aim of this pilot study is to reduce healthcare inefficiencies by improving this *conversion rate* from 70% to 90%.

To achieve this goal, a patient leaflet will be sent to those referred for cataract surgery. Referral Management Centre (RMC) staff will contact patients by telephone two weeks later when they will be asked whether they want to proceed with a pre-surgery cataract assessment with a surgical provider, or not, after reflecting on the contents of the patient leaflet.

The patient leaflet contains; information regarding cataract, the affects of cataract on life quality and the surgical risks of cataract surgery. In addition the leaflet contains a questionnaire (CatPROM5) that helps patients reflect on how they are being affected by cataracts day to day.

Patients who decide to proceed with a pre-surgery cataract assessment will be able to choose their secondary care provider as part of the call.



Patients that decide not to proceed will exit the referral pathway with the patient outcome relayed to the referring clinician in writing.

RMC staff will not provide clinical information nor discuss their questionnaire score or influence patients' decisions to proceed or not. Those who request further clinical advice will be signposted back to their referring clinician.

Please be reassured, there will be no change to your referral processes. The changes included in this pilot study are occurring after referral from primary care has been initiated.

**If you have any queries, please contact us at [bswccg.rsseyes@nhs.net](mailto:bswccg.rsseyes@nhs.net) or call us on 0300 303 5048.**

