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News Update June 2026

Your guide to the latest in optometry,
clinical practice, CPD events and more

Free transportation

Private taxi transportation available to
all eligible NHS cataract patients



Free Transport: Supporting Access to NHS Cataract Care

Eligible NHS cataract patients treated through Optegra Eye Healthcare can access free private taxi transport to and from their appointments, helping to remove barriers to essential eye care.

This support is available for patients who may struggle with travel, ensuring they can still access timely assessment and treatment across our 17 sites, where eligibility criteria are met and no suitable alternative transport is available.

discussing referral pathways, particularly where transport may be a limiting factor.

[Find out More Now](#)

NHS Cataract Surgery: Lens Options and Patient Expectations



In this video, Mr. Steven Naylor, Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon and NHS Cataract Lead at Optegra, explains how lens choices are made within NHS cataract pathways and what this means for patients' outcomes.

NHS cataract patients typically receive a monofocal intraocular lens, most commonly set for distance vision, with glasses used for near tasks after surgery. In selected cases, lens choice may be tailored for near vision or adapted to replicate monovision.

The focus remains on improving visual function, supported by clear pre-operative counselling on expectations and spectacle use within NHS care.

[Watch the Video](#)



Partnership: Eye Sciences Update

In the last year, Dr Anthony Man from our Eye Sciences team has led a Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) between Optegra Eye Healthcare, The University of Manchester and Innovate UK, focused on improving efficiency and earlier decision-making across patient pathways.

Key outputs include a community referral suitability tool, an internal clinical assessment tool, and AI models to help predict visual outcomes after laser vision correction.

The referral tool is due to launch later this year, with early results to be presented at ESCRS.

[Explore Optegra & AI](#)



Meet the Consultant: Mr. Steven Naylor

Mr. Steven Naylor is a Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon and NHS Cataract Lead at Optegra, specialising in cataract and lens surgery across our hospitals and clinics.

He has performed over 5,000 ophthalmic procedures, including more than 3,500 cataract operations. He trained at the University of Leeds and completed subspecialty training in corneal, external eye disease and refractive surgery at St James's University Hospital. He also holds the Certificate in Laser and Refractive Surgery (CertLRS).

services at Optegra Eye Hospital Newcastle, alongside its NHS cataract service.

Meet our Surgeons



👨‍⚕️ Drop-Free Cataract Surgery Wins at SECOIR

Optegra Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon Mr. Pedro Muel-Gonzalez has been awarded best oral communication in lens surgery at SECOIR for his presentation on outcomes from Optegra’s Drop-Free NHS cataract surgery pathway.

The presentation shared real-world results from over 17,000 treated eyes and attracted strong international interest and contributed to wider discussion on the future of post-operative cataract care and the role of drop-free pathways in practice.

Discover NHS Drop-Free

Did You Know?

Cataract Awareness Month is a useful reminder that several common misconceptions still influence when patients seek advice or accept referral.

These include beliefs that cataracts need to be “ripe” before surgery, uncertainty about what a cataract is, concerns about complexity or hospital stay, and assumptions about post-operative vision and glasses use.

delayed referrals and hesitation around surgery?

highly predictable outcomes. Clear patient understanding can support earlier referral and help improve long-term visual outcomes.

[Explore NHS Cataract Care](#)

Boost Your Skills With Our CPD Accredited Events

Q3 2026 CPD Focus: Post-Op Complications

Our upcoming CPD programme will focus on post-operative complications across cataract pathways, and our ConnectedCare scheme, delivered through a mix of webinars and face-to-face workshops.

Sessions will explore real-world case scenarios, including inappropriate referrals for post-op care, delayed recognition of complications, common post-operative presentations, and urgent referrals that did not require emergency intervention.

Designed for optometrists involved in post-operative care and referral decision-making, these sessions will support practical learning, peer discussion, and clinical confidence in managing post-surgical patients.

[Join An Event Near You](#)

Hear from our Patients:



“Cataract surgery made simple.

Every aspect of my treatment was carried out with precision and true professionalism. My initial assessment was thorough, and done with utmost care. My cataract surgery on the day was exemplary, I had a lovely conversation about test cricket with the surgeon during my operation... that was very comforting and most relaxing. Having a drop-free surgery was an added bonus.”

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