

# Cataracts - Referral Management

RMG: R-0024 (AC)  
 Link to Codes

- Clinical Indications for Referral
- References
- Footnotes
- Codes

## Clinical Indications for Referral

- Referral for cataracts may be indicated for **1 or more** of the following(1)(2)(3):
  - Endocrinology referral for evaluation or management of underlying endocrine condition associated with cataract (eg, diabetes, hypoparathyroidism)(4)
  - Genetic medicine referral for evaluation or management of genetic disorder associated with congenital cataract (eg, Alport syndrome, Down syndrome, galactosemia, Lowe syndrome, myotonic dystrophy)(5)(6)(7)(8)
  - Nutrition referral for dietary counseling (eg, galactosemia causing cataract in child)(8)
  - ☐ Ophthalmology referral for evaluation or management of **1 or more** of the following(6):
    - Cataract in child or infant[A](5)(9)(10)
    - Changes in refraction due to cataract
    - Clinically significant difference in acuity between eyes (ie, anisometropia) in presence of cataract[B]
    - Coincident eye pain, red eye, or photophobia with cataract[C](12)
    - High-risk patient, as indicated by **1 or more** of the following(6):
      - Diabetes mellitus(13)
      - Down syndrome(14)
      - Drug-induced lens changes (eg, prednisone, phenothiazine)
      - Exposure to ionizing radiation(15)
      - Hypocalcemia
      - Myotonic dystrophy
      - Ocular trauma
      - Wilson disease
    - Lens-induced angle closure (eg, phacomorphic glaucoma)[C](16)(17)
    - Lens-induced uveitis(18)(19)
    - Lens caused inflammation (eg, phacolysis, phacoanaphylactic endophthalmitis).[C](17)
    - Lens opacity interferes with optimal diagnosis or treatment of other eye conditions (eg, diabetic retinopathy).
    - Visual symptoms due to lens opacity impairing adult patient's quality of life, as indicated by **1 or more** of the following(18)(20)(21):
      - Decreased night vision
      - Difficulty seeing fine details (eg, reading, driving)(22)
      - Glare sensitivity
      - Halos

## References

1. Miller KM, et al. Cataract in the Adult Eye. Preferred Practice Pattern [Internet] American Academy of Ophthalmology. 2021 Accessed at: <https://www.aao.org/>. [accessed 2022 Sep 28] [ Context Link 1, 2, 3 ]
2. Cataracts in Adults: Management. NICE guideline NG77 [Internet] National Institute for Health and Care Excellence. 2017 Oct Accessed at: <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/>. [accessed 2022 Oct 22] [ Context Link 1 ] View abstract...
3. Machin A. Cataracts. InnovAiT 2018;11(11):634-638. DOI: 10.1177/1755738018792699. [ Context Link 1 ]
4. Kiziltoprak H, Tekin K, Inanc M, Goker YS. Cataract in diabetes mellitus. World Journal of Diabetes 2019;10(3):140-153. DOI: 10.4239/wjd.v10.i3.140. [ Context Link 1 ] View abstract...
5. Mohammadpour M, et al. Updates on managements of pediatric cataract. Journal of Current Ophthalmology 2019;31(2):118-126. DOI: 10.1016/j.joco.2018.11.005. [ Context Link 1, 2, 3 ] View abstract...
6. Howes FW. Patient workup for cataract surgery. In: Yanoff M, Duker JS, editors. Ophthalmology. 5th ed. Elsevier; 2019:337-341.e1. [ Context Link 1, 2, 3 ]

7. Messina-Baas O, Cuevas-Covarrubias SA. Inherited congenital cataract: a guide to suspect the genetic etiology in the cataract genesis. *Molecular Syndromology* 2017;8(2):58-78. DOI: 10.1159/000455752. [ Context Link 1 ] View abstract...
8. Davison JE. Eye involvement in inherited metabolic disorders. *Therapeutic Advances in Ophthalmology* 2020 Jan-Dec;12:Online. DOI: 10.1177/2515841420979109. [ Context Link 1, 2 ] View abstract...
9. Khokhar S, Jose CP, Sihota R, Midha N. Unilateral congenital cataract: clinical profile and presentation. *Journal of Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus* 2018;55(2):107-112. DOI: 10.3928/01913913-20170703-11. [ Context Link 1 ] View abstract...
10. Lim ME, Buckley EG, Prakalapakorn SG. Update on congenital cataract surgery management. *Current Opinion in Ophthalmology* 2017;28(1):87-92. DOI: 10.1097/ICU.0000000000000324. [ Context Link 1 ] View abstract...
11. Howes FW. Indications for lens surgery/indications for application of different lens surgery techniques. In: Yanoff M, Duker JS, editors. *Ophthalmology*. 5th ed. Elsevier; 2019:349-356.e1. [ Context Link 1 ]
12. Sangwan VS, Gupta S, Das S. Cataract surgery in ocular surface diseases: clinical challenges and outcomes. *Current Opinion in Ophthalmology* 2018;29(1):81-87. DOI: 10.1097/ICU.0000000000000441. [ Context Link 1 ] View abstract...
13. Go JA, Mamalis CA, Khandelwal SS. Cataract surgery considerations for diabetic patients. *Current Diabetes Reports* 2021;21(12):Online. DOI: 10.1007/s11892-021-01418-z. [ Context Link 1 ] View abstract...
14. Self JE, et al. Cataract management in children: a review of the literature and current practice across five large UK centres. *Eye (London, England)* 2020;34(12):2197-2218. DOI: 10.1038/s41433-020-1115-6. [ Context Link 1 ] View abstract...
15. Majhail NS, et al. Recommended screening and preventive practices for long-term survivors after hematopoietic cell transplantation. *Bone Marrow Transplantation* 2012;47(3):337-341. DOI: 10.1038/bmt.2012.5. [ Context Link 1 ] View abstract...
16. Marchini G, Ceruti P, Vizzari G, Berzaghi D, Zampieri A. Management of concomitant cataract and glaucoma. *Developments in Ophthalmology* 2017;59:155-64. DOI: 10.1159/000458494. [ Context Link 1 ] View abstract...
17. Llop SM, Papaliadis GN. Cataract surgery complications in uveitis patients: a review article. *Seminars in Ophthalmology* 2018;33(1):64-69. DOI: 10.1080/08820538.2017.1353815. [ Context Link 1, 2 ] View abstract...
18. Canadian Ophthalmological Society evidence-based clinical practice guidelines for cataract surgery in the adult eye. *Canadian Journal of Ophthalmology* 2008;43 Suppl 1:S7-S57. DOI: 10.1139/i08-133. [ Context Link 1, 2 ] View abstract...
19. Conway MD, Stern E, Enfield DB, Peyman GA. Management of cataract in uveitis patients. *Current Opinion in Ophthalmology* 2018;29(1):69-74. DOI: 10.1097/ICU.0000000000000438. [ Context Link 1 ] View abstract...
20. Watkinson S, Seewoodhary R. Cataract management: effect on patients' quality of life. *Nursing Standard* 2015;29(21):42-8. DOI: 10.7748/ns.29.21.42.e9222. [ Context Link 1 ] View abstract...
21. Marra KV, Wagley S, Kuperwaser MC, Campo R, Arroyo JG. Care of older adults: role of primary care physicians in the treatment of cataracts and macular degeneration. *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society* 2016;64(2):369-77. DOI: 10.1111/jgs.13927. [ Context Link 1 ] View abstract...
22. Eye guidelines. In: Cash JC, Glass CA, Mullen J, editors. *Family Practice Guidelines*. 5th ed. New York, NY: Springer Publishing Company, LLC; 2021:119-142. [ Context Link 1 ]

---

## Footnotes

[A] Early surgical intervention for cataracts in an infant or child can prevent irreversible amblyopia.(5) [ A in Context Link 1 ]

[B] Significant difference in acuity between eyes, anisometropia, creates inhibition of binocular vision. This may occur iatrogenically after performing cataract surgery in only one eye; therefore, cataract surgery may be appropriate at an earlier stage of development in the second eye.(1) [ B in Context Link 1 ]

[C] Patients with hypermature cataracts can develop an immune reaction to cataract protein (phacoanaphylactic endophthalmitis) or glaucoma.(1)(11) [ C in Context Link 1, 2, 3 ]

---

## Codes

**ICD-10 Diagnosis:** E08.36, E09.36, E10.36, E11.36, E13.36, H25.011, H25.012, H25.013, H25.019, H25.031, H25.032, H25.033, H25.039, H25.041, H25.042, H25.043, H25.049, H25.091, H25.092, H25.093, H25.099, H25.10, H25.11, H25.12, H25.13, H25.20, H25.21, H25.22, H25.23, H25.811, H25.812, H25.813, H25.819, H25.89, H25.9, H26.001, H26.002, H26.003, H26.009, H26.011, H26.012, H26.013, H26.019, H26.031, H26.032, H26.033, H26.039, H26.041, H26.042, H26.043, H26.049, H26.051, H26.052, H26.053, H26.059, H26.061, H26.062, H26.063, H26.069, H26.09, H26.101, H26.102, H26.103, H26.109, H26.111, H26.112, H26.113, H26.119, H26.121, H26.122, H26.123, H26.129, H26.131, H26.132, H26.133, H26.139, H26.20, H26.211, H26.212, H26.213, H26.219, H26.221, H26.222, H26.223, H26.229, H26.231, H26.232, H26.233, H26.239, H26.30, H26.31, H26.32, H26.33, H26.40, H26.411, H26.412, H26.413, H26.419, H26.491, H26.492, H26.493, H26.499, H26.8, H26.9, H28, H44.19, H59.021, H59.022, H59.023, H59.029, Q12.0, T85.21XA, T85.21XD, T85.21XS, T85.22XA, T85.22XD, T85.22XS, T85.29XA, T85.29XD, T85.29XS, Z13.5, Z98.41, Z98.42, Z98.49 [Hide]

Last Update: 9/21/2023 4:56:13 AM  
Build Number: 27.2.2023092114759.013030