

Our ref: FOI ID 34929

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Re: Freedom of Information Request

Please find below the response to your recent Freedom of Information request regarding access on referrals or treatments services within NHS South Sefton CCG.

Request/[Response](#):

Can you please provide information for the below mentioned questions:

- Has the CCG introduced any new restrictions or thresholds for access on referrals or treatments during 2016-17?

[NHS South Sefton CCG has introduced new restrictions or thresholds for access on referrals or treatments during 2016-17. In relation to cataract surgery please see below.](#)

- If no, are you planning to introduce any in the remainder of 2016-17, or in 2017-18?

[The CCG has begun a review of our commissioning policy in conjunction with neighbouring CCGs. This will include a review of any restrictions or thresholds, the outcome of which is not yet known.](#)

- If yes, please provide the following details:

- When it was introduced

[December 2016](#)

- The treatments/conditions affected

[Cataract surgery](#)

- What change has been put in place

Referral of patients with cataracts to ophthalmologists should be based on the following indications:

1. The patient has sufficient cataract to account for visual symptoms. AND 2. The patient has best corrected visual acuity of 6/9 (Snellen) or +0.2 (Logmar) or worse in the first eye AND the reduced visual acuity is impairing their lifestyle. A description of this impact must be documented and accompany the referral information. If both eyes have a similar visual acuity of 6/9, only one eye may be considered for surgery at that time.

For second eyes referred at a time after first eye surgery has been completed, the same criteria as first eye will apply but the patient has best corrected visual acuity of 6/12 (Snellen) or +0.3 (Logmar) or worse in the second eye AND the reduced visual acuity is impairing their lifestyle.