



Ministry of Health Policy Change - Intraocular Lenses for Cataract Surgery

Are you considering cataract surgery?

Cataract eye surgery involves removing a cloudy lens from the eye and replacing it with a clear synthetic lens to restore vision. These lenses are called intraocular lenses.

Beginning June 4, 2012, there will be significant cost savings for patients*:

- Foldable monofocal intraocular lenses, the most commonly selected type of replacement lens, will be provided at **no charge** to the patient by the health authority.
- Individuals who need cataract surgery will **not pay any** out-of-pocket expenses for their surgery **if they select an insured lens (foldable monofocal lens.)** Consultations, visits and testing for insured lenses should not be billed to patients. A review of the various lens options is also considered to be part of any consultation for cataract surgery, and should not be billed to patients.

For all cataract patients:

- Health authorities will now manage the supply of both insured and non-insured (specialty) lenses. This change will improve patient safety by ensuring that health authorities can consistently track all the lenses and patients can be notified if there is a problem with the lens in the future.

If you choose a non-insured (specialty) lens:

Cataract patients who wish to purchase specialty lenses will do so directly from their health authority at standardized prices that reflect provincial buying power. Individuals will pay the difference between the cost of the insured lens and the non-insured specialty lens they have chosen. Specific assessments/education, beyond what is provided and covered by MSP in the initial consultation for cataract surgery, are not benefits of MSP and may be billed directly to the patient.

For further information:

FAQ and a patient handout are available online at:

Providers: <http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/msp/infoprac/index.html>

Beneficiaries: <http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/msp/infoben/benefits.html>

*The above information applies only to **BC residents who require cataract surgery** and are enrolled in the Medical Services Plan.