

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE  
EXCELLENCE**

**Equality impact assessment**

**GID-HTE10090 Monofocal intraocular  
lenses for cataract surgery (provisional  
title)**

**Scoping**

**1 Have any potential equality issues been identified during the scoping process? If so, what are they?**

No equality issues relating specifically to the selection of the monofocal intraocular lens (IOL) have been found. However equality issues exist which are related to getting cataracts, and access to and outcomes from cataract surgery more generally. These include:

- People's ethnic, religious, and socio-cultural background may affect their views towards cataract surgery.
- Some people may need additional support to understand information about cataract surgery, and benefits and risks of different available options. These may include people with visual or hearing difficulties, cognitive impairment, problems with manual dexterity, a learning disability and people who are unable to read or understand health-related information.
- Some people would benefit from information on cataract surgery and intraocular lenses in languages other than English.

**2 Have any potential health inequality issues been identified during the scoping process? If so, what are they?**

Several potential health inequality issues have been identified. These include:

- Cataracts become more common with increasing age. Among older adults, cataracts are linked to reduced quality of life and cognitive decline.
- Cataracts are more common in people from lower socioeconomic groups, and their presenting symptoms tend to be worse. Worse visual outcomes after surgery have been found for this group.
- Cataracts are more common among women than men, linked to longer life expectancy and hormonal factors.
- People with learning disabilities may have delayed presentation, communication barriers, and challenges with post-operative care. These factors have been linked to poorer outcomes.
- Some ethnic groups are more likely to experience complications from cataract surgery and have worse visual outcomes.

**3 What is the preliminary view as to what extent the committee needs to address the potential issues set out in questions 1 and 2?**

The potential equality issues will be noted by the committee and inform discussions where appropriate.

**4 Has any change to the draft scope been agreed to highlight the potential issues set out in questions 1 and 2?**

The potential equalities issues related to cataract surgery in general have been outlined within the scope.

**5 Has the stakeholder list been updated as a result of additional equality or health inequality issues identified during the scoping process?**

No additional stakeholders related to potential equality issues have been identified during the scoping process

**Approved by associate director:** Janet Robertson

**Date:** 26/02/2026