

Eligibility criteria for cataract surgery

Southern Cross will only reimburse the cost of cataract surgery under a member's policy when at least **one** of the following criteria are met for that member.

1. Significant lens opacity (cataract) is evident on clinical examination
and
a best corrected visual acuity level of 6/9 or worse is demonstrated on visual acuity tests.
2. When significant lens opacity is present but the best corrected visual acuity is better than 6/9, **one** of the following conditions must be documented:
 - anisometropia greater than 2.0 (best corrected), or
 - posterior sub-capsular /cortical lens opacification with significant reduction in visual acuity in bright light (glare).
3. In patients 60 years and older, there is evidence of nuclear sclerotic cataract inducing a documented myopic refraction shift greater than 2 diopters.

The cost of the cataract surgery will **not** be reimbursed in the following circumstances:

- for lens extraction performed to adjust a refractive error or correct presbyopia
- treatment for traumatic cataract.

Please also ensure you are familiar with all **policy exclusions**, including:

- Acute care
- Congenital conditions
- Cosmetic treatment/procedures
- Health screening
- Treatment of any condition not detrimental to health
- Unapproved healthcare services.

Refer to the relevant policy document for specific conditions and exceptions that apply to these exclusions.