

## **Eligibility criteria for blepharoplasty and ptosis surgery - effective up to and including 31 March 2026**

Southern Cross will only reimburse the cost of blepharoplasty and ptosis surgery under a member's policy when the following criteria are met for that member.

### **Blepharoplasty**

For blepharoplasty, criteria **1, 2, 3 and 4** below must be met.

- 1.** At least **one** of the following must be present:
  - a roll of upper eyelid skin hangs over the tips of some or all of the upper lid lashes
  - a roll of upper eyelid skin rests on the lashes deflecting the lashes downwards from the lid margin.
- 2.** A clinically validated objective visual field assessment covering 30 degrees from fixation that demonstrates visual field loss, showing at least 70% of the points above 20 degrees are affected.
- 3.** The visual field test result is reasonably explained by the presence of dermatochalasis.
- 4.** Photographs of both front and side views of the open eyes are taken prior to surgery. These must be retained for audit purposes, along with a copy of the qualifying visual field test.

### **Ptosis surgery**

For ptosis surgery the following must be met.

- the lid drop is 3 mm or more over the cornea (the normal position of the upper lid is 1 mm down over the cornea).

For bilateral ptosis surgery the following criteria must be met:

- the lid drop is 3 mm or more over the cornea (the normal position of the upper lid is 1 mm down over the cornea)
- a photograph of front view must be taken prior to surgery and retained.

**Note:** Brow lift procedures are an exclusion under Southern Cross policies.

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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.