



Intervention	004. Corrective Surgery, Lens Implants and Laser Treatment for Refractive error (short or long sightedness, astigmatism)
For the treatment of	Refractive Error
Commissioning Position	This intervention is commissioned if poor refraction results in loss of functional vision either: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. after corneal transplant or cataract surgery OR2. due to Keratoconus or pellucid marginal degeneration AND all conservative or other appropriate surgical interventions have failed to adequately correct this impairment.
Summary of Rationale	<p>Wearing glasses or contact lenses is more cost effective and carries lower risk than eye surgery for correcting refractive errors.</p> <p>Photorefractive (laser) surgery for the correction of refractive errors is safe and efficacious for use in appropriately selected patients. However corrective surgery is not commissioned as an alternative to the use of spectacles or contact lenses as a personal preference on cosmetic grounds.</p> <p>Corneal lens implants should only be used for the treatment of refractive error when there is other ocular pathology present e.g. keratoconus or pellucid marginal degeneration.</p>
References	Overview Photorefractive (laser) surgery for the correction of refractive errors Guidance NICE Overview Corneal implants for keratoconus Guidance NICE
Effective from	October 2024
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