



Essential Co-Management Information for Referring Optometrists

Growth in demand for Cataract Surgery

- Cataract accounts for 12% of blindness in the over 40 age group
- Cataract surgery in Victoria is predicted to increase from 39,244 in 2006 to 58,110 in 2016
- Representing an increase of 48%

Alfred Cataract Surgery Statistics

- In 2003 Alfred performed 216 cataract operations, 2006 total approx 400
- 2007 target 1080

Alfred Cataract Surgery Strategy

- Improve access for cataract surgery by working with community optometrists
- Improve the quality of referrals by providing clear referral criteria
- Increased operating capacity with the opening of new theatres in The Alfred Centre in Feb 2007
- Keep waiting lists/times short
- Streamline pre- & post-operative procedures
- Reduce the number of post op follow up visits provided at the Alfred through co-management
- Improve liaison through optometric clinical position in Alfred ophthalmology department

Co-Management Opportunities for Community Optometrists

- Set up a system for post op management by community optometrists
- Encourage early return of patients back to community optometrists
- Patients referred by GPs or inter departmental hospital referrals to be directed to co-managing optoms

Alfred Staff

Ophthalmologists: *Anthony Hall, Stephen Jones, Robert West, Justin Friebe, Cecilia Ling, Penny Allen*

Optometrist & Co-Management Coord: *Ralph Green*

Pre operative assessment nurse: *Penny Featherstone*

Additionally: *Orthoptists, Residents and Registrars*

Why refer to the Alfred?

Financial reasons: Patients who prefer or elect for, hospital outpatient services – no fees for surgery
Continuity of care - your own patients returned to your care for co-management.
Opportunities to gain new local patients for cataract aftercare and Rx dispensing

Geography Short journeys and local co-ordinated care preferred by geriatric treatment group

Quality of service All ophthalmologists overseas fellowship trained
Most involved in ongoing research, teaching and training of medical undergraduates, ophthalmic trainees and optometry undergraduates and clinicians.
The Alfred Centre – new state of the art operating theatres opened Feb 2007
Small incision PKE/PCIOL surgery including toric IOLs on indication

Clinical services Broad range includes: General ophthalmology and cataract surgery, glaucoma, oculoplastics, ocular motility, medical retina and uveitis

Communication Enhanced local communication between community optoms and Alfred co-ordinated by Alfred Hospital Optometrist, Ralph Green rverde@ozemail.com.au
Free interpreting service for Pxs in all languages

Logistics

Before you Co-Manage You must Register	All co-managing optoms must sign up to placed on Alfred co-management database Download “ <i>Community Optometrist Cataract Aftercare Agreement.pdf</i> ” from http://www.baysidehealth.org.au/ophthalmology/ , ensure you have read and understand the documentation regarding co-management, sign and fax co-management agreement back to Ralph Green at the Alfred on Fax 9076 2709 all hrs. Agreement forms may accompany your first referral.
Who to refer	Patients requiring Cataract surgery or Alfred’s broad range of ophthalmic services (note: no paediatric services, Px under 16 YOA to be referred to RVEEH or RCH) See “ <i>Essential Information for Co-Managing Optometrists.pdf</i> ” Download from http://www.baysidehealth.org.au/ophthalmology/
Cataract Services	See “ <i>Essential Cataract Surgery Information for Co-Man Optoms.pdf</i> ” download from http://www.baysidehealth.org.au/ophthalmology/
Referral Forms	Fax Pre-Operative Clinical Details: Download referral form “ <i>Optometrist Cataract Referral to Alfred.pdf</i> ” from http://www.baysidehealth.org.au/ophthalmology/ and Fax to Alfred on Fax 9076 2709 . The Alfred will contact the referred Px to organise the appointment
Co-Management	Post-Cataract surgery optometrical care from 21 days post surgically. See “Cataract Services” above & Download “ <i>Optometrist Cataract Aftercare Report.pdf</i> ” from http://www.baysidehealth.org.au/ophthalmology/ Fax Completed aftercare report forms to Alfred on Fax 9076 2709
Optom Fees	Download “ <i>Medicare Billing for Cataract Co-Management by Optometrists.pdf</i> ” from http://www.baysidehealth.org.au/ophthalmology/

Contact Details

		<i>Numbers</i>	<i>Attended</i>
Urgent referral or return of Patients to Alfred – the Accident and Emergency department will call Ophthalmology Registrar on duty	Ph	976 2000	all hrs
Routine new Patient Referrals and non-urgent returns by Fax (Downlaod referral form from http://www.baysidehealth.org.au/ophthalmology/)	Fax	9076 2709	all hrs
Alfred Ophthalmology at Outpatient A Clinic, Mon/Tue/Thu	Ph	9076 2089	9-5
Co-Management advice on treatment – ask for Ophthalmology Registrar	Ph	9076 2000	all hrs
Co-Management inquiries – Ralph Green rverde@ozemail.com.au or	Ph	9076 2089	Thurs Pm
Waiting List Info Line	Ph	9076 0359	9-5 Mon-Fri
Overnight accommodation for regional Patients at Alfred <i>Medi Hotel</i>	Ph	9076 0224	9-5 Mon-Fri