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# Patient Choice in Cataract Surgery



**Important information for GPs and Optometrists**

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The national choice agenda has commenced. From January 2005 patients requiring cataract surgery have to be offered two choices of provider, and by December 2005 the number of choices will increase to four or five, one of which must be an independent provider.

## Eastern Surgery - the new option in East Anglia

Traditionally the options available to patients have been limited to NHS organisations. A further provider of cataract surgery is now available. Eastern Surgery in partnership with the Nuffield Hospital, Ipswich have been commissioned to provide cataract surgery to NHS patients from January 2005. By utilising the services of Eastern Surgery, PCT's have embraced the choice agenda and patients will have the opportunity to exercise real choice.

This leaflet will provide you with information about Eastern Surgery. It aims to help you provide patients under your care, requiring cataract surgery, with sufficient information to make a choice regarding where they should have their operation.

Eastern Surgery is an independent provider of cataract surgery, and has been providing care to NHS patients for a wide range of elective surgical needs since February 2004. Eastern Surgery works alongside the Nuffield Hospitals, East Anglia. This provides high quality, individualised healthcare in a relaxed environment, making the patient experience as pleasant as possible.

When patients choose to have their procedure undertaken with Eastern Surgery there will be no charge to the patient. The whole episode of care will be funded by the PCT. All surgical procedures are undertaken by consultant ophthalmologists, all of whom trained and are currently working in the NHS.

**For more information**

**[www.easternsurgery.nhs.uk](http://www.easternsurgery.nhs.uk)**



Mr Clive Edelsten



Mr Richard Goble



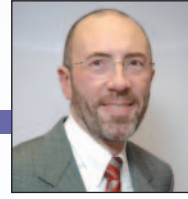
Mr Simon Hardman Lea



Mr Andrew William Kiel



Mr Roger Lewis



Adrian Faulkner



Kiran Sinha

## The Team

Patients under your care may be familiar with the team:

**Mr Clive Edelsten:** Mr Edelsten trained at Cambridge University and the Middlesex Hospital, London and qualified as a consultant in 1993. His special interest is in ocular inflammatory disease and laser treatment of age related maculopathy. He has wide experience in the surgery of complicated cataracts associated with uveitis and runs the supra regional service for children with these conditions at Great Ormond Street.

**Mr Richard Goble:** Undertook his ophthalmology training at St Bartholomews Hospital and St Thomas Hospital, London and the Birmingham Midland Eye Hospital. He has been working as a NHS consultant since 1997. Mr Goble has extensive experience in managing complex cataract procedures.

**Mr Simon Hardman Lea:** Trained in ophthalmology in Oxford and St Thomas and Moorfields Eye Hospitals in London. He has been a consultant in Ipswich since 1994, with particular interests in ocular surface disease and surgery to the front of the eye.

**Mr Andrew William Kiel:** Qualified from Queens Medical Centre, Nottingham in 1991. Mr Kiel undertook ophthalmic training in Burton-on-Trent, Winchester, Southampton, Nottingham, Mansfield and Derby, as well as fellowship training in glaucoma in Dunedin, New Zealand under Professor Molteno. He is the newest consultant in Ipswich having been appointed in September 2003.

**Mr Roger Lewis:** Trained as an ophthalmologist in Sheffield, Bristol and Exeter and commenced as a consultant at Ipswich in 1982. He has extensive ophthalmology experience at consultant level and also specialises in oculoplastic surgery and ophthalmic diabetic disease.

**Adrian Faulkner:** Trained as an optometrist at Aston University and graduated in 1979. He undertook a PHD in the department of ophthalmology at Manchester University studying glaucoma and visual fields. Adrian has been in practice as an optometrist for almost 25 years and has worked at Moorfields Eye Hospital in London and more recently at Ipswich Hospital.

**Kiran Sinha:** Commenced her career as a dispensing optician in 1984. She graduated in 1991 gaining a BSc (Hons) in ophthalmic optics from Glasgow. In 1998 she joined the team at Ipswich Hospital where she has been practising as an optometrist alongside Adrian Faulkner and the ophthalmologists.

## Choice

Some patients may have already been treated by members of the team and may wish to have their cataract surgery under the care of the same consultant; we are able to support the patient in their choice of consultant. All of the consultants providing cataract surgery with Eastern Surgery are able to offer local anaesthesia using topical methods. Some patients may prefer this method instead of administration by injection. The most appropriate form of anaesthesia will be discussed with the patient during the pre-assessment appointment.

## Waiting times

The national waiting time for cataract surgery is currently 26 weeks from beginning to end of the whole patient journey. Waiting times tend to vary depending on the individual health system. At Eastern Surgery we will ensure that every patient has their operation within 12 weeks of the referral being received. Any wait for a pre-assessment consultation will be included in the overall 12 week waiting time.

## Facilities

The Nuffield Hospital, Ipswich offers clean, modern and comfortable accommodation. There are no car parking charges for patients or visitors. MRSA rates are low. This is facilitated by adopting strict criteria which ensure that patients with, or at risk from having MRSA are screened prior to admission.

If you have any questions or queries relating to the services of Eastern Surgery or the Nuffield Hospital, Ipswich please do not hesitate to ask one of the team who will be happy to help:

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