



Cataract Surgery in Ontario

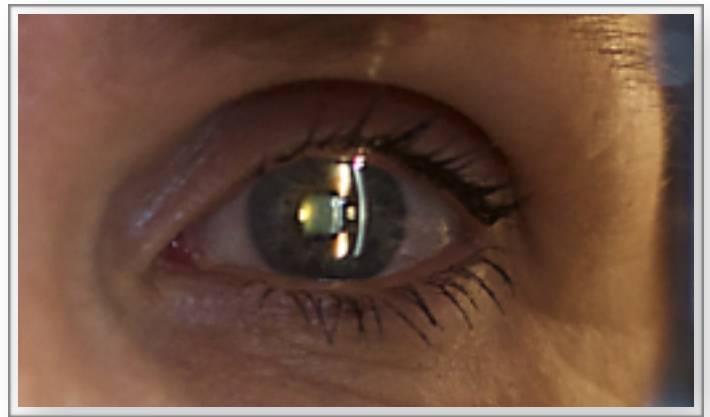
What is covered by OHIP? What are the non-insured options?
How much should it cost? Can I pay to get faster surgery?

Patients with cataracts in Ontario have many options to consider with surgery. Cataract is the progressive hazing of the natural crystalline lens in the eye. It causes decreased vision that can impact your ability to read, drive, work, and function.

Cataract surgery is the most commonly performed surgery in Canada, during which your cataract is removed and an artificial intraocular lens is implanted. Technological advances have revolutionized cataract surgery allowing for improved safety, the costs of which are funded by provincial health insurance plans, such as OHIP in Ontario.

Patients with cataracts in Ontario can have their vision restored by OHIP funded surgery without paying extra money out of pocket.

Several newer innovations in cataract surgery are not covered by OHIP and are optional choices for all patients in Ontario. These non-insured services are not medically necessary and are designed to reduce dependence on glasses/contact lenses, and/or to potentially enhance the quality of your vision.



What are my non-insured options?

Your ophthalmologist may discuss optional non-insured testing, procedures, and special feature lens implants if appropriate to your individual situation.

Every patient has a right to know their options and to make well informed decisions about which options, if any, they wish to choose and the costs involved.

Non-insured cataract services are paid for directly by the patient to the surgeon's clinic or hospital and may include specialized diagnostic eye measurements; special feature lens implants; and certain surgical procedures, diagnostics and lasers.



Preoperative measurements in the office

Eye measurements are needed to select the appropriate lens implant used during surgery. OHIP covers testing using ultrasound. Non-insured alternative and/or additional eye testing may provide more accurate eye measurements.

Optional non-insured preoperative testing may permit a more customized vision correction with lens implants and reduce your dependence on glasses at the focus point of your choice (distance or near).

Preoperative testing takes place in your surgeon's office, where payment for these optional services is made.

Procedures & devices in the surgical facility

OHIP covers cataract surgery costs including surgeon fees and the standard lens implant. Special feature implants, additional procedures, specialized diagnostics, and certain lasers are non-insured services that patients can choose at the surgical facility or hospital for an additional cost.

Optional special feature lens implants may:

- **treat astigmatism**
- **reduce your need for glasses**
- **attempt to improve the quality of your vision**

How much will non-insured services cost?

All non-insured cataract services in Ontario are optional. Your ophthalmologist should discuss with you any fees for non-insured services and answer any questions you may have.

The cost for non-insured services can vary between surgeons and hospitals/surgical facilities. The Canadian Ophthalmological Society (COS) outlines average costs for these cataract services in an online statement on **Values for Uninsured Services in Canada**.

Can I pay to get faster surgery?

No. Wait times can vary significantly for cataract surgery. Independent of where your surgery takes place, Ontario surgeons are legally prohibited from offering faster surgery for a fee, otherwise known as queue jumping. Any payment out of pocket should only be for non-insured testing, procedures, or lens implants — not to have surgery done sooner.

Where can I get more information?

The Eye Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario (EPSO) **Code of Ethics** (www.epso.ca) is a guideline for practicing ophthalmologists.

The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario (CPSO) has an online policy on **Block Fees and Uninsured Services**.

To learn more scan this QR code
or visit www.epso.ca

