

Reducing your wait for cataract surgery

- Have you already waited more than 120 days for cataract surgery?
- Are you a resident of Ontario with OHIP coverage?
- Are you on a hospital waiting list within the Waterloo Wellington LHIN?

If you meet these requirements, the Cataract Wait Time Guarantee can provide you with more surgical treatment options.

This program is being set up in Ontario to improve patient access to cataract surgery within 182 days. The target of 182 days represents the time between a specialist recommending cataract surgery and your receiving treatment.

The program is being offered to residents who are on a waiting list for surgery at hospitals within the Waterloo Wellington Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) area.

Your local Community Care Access Centre (CCAC) is your window into the program. A dedicated CCAC staff member, called a Care Connector, is available to assist you. The Care Connector can take the following steps to help you receive your surgery within the 182-day target:

1. Contact the hospital where you are on the waiting list, to facilitate timely surgery.
2. Help you get treated at a nearby hospital within the Waterloo Wellington LHIN.
3. Schedule surgery at the Kensington Eye Institute in Toronto or at an alternate facility within the Greater Toronto Area, if surgery cannot be provided locally within 182 days.

The Care Connector can be reached at 1-888-883-3313.

What you need to do:

- Be sure to contact the Care Connector after you have been waiting more than 120 days (approximately four months), to receive surgery within 182 days.

In some circumstances, it may not be possible for the program to provide surgery within the target time. These circumstances include changes to eye condition, e.g., age-related Macular Degeneration; patient illness; unplanned operating room closures; surgeon illness or unexpected absence; or significant increase in higher priority cases.

Travel Assistance

If cataract surgery cannot be provided locally within 182 days, travel assistance may be available through the Cataract Timely Surgery Travel Assistance (CTSTA) program. To qualify, you must travel at least 100 kilometres one-way for treatment. Financial assistance may include:

- 41 cents for each additional km exceeding the minimum driving distance of 100 kilometres.
- \$100 per trip will be provided to you for accommodation if the one-way driving distance is at least 200 kilometres.
- If a Care Connector confirms that you require a companion for health or safety reasons, travel assistance will also be provided to your companion, if travel is by commercial means (i.e., not by a personal vehicle). One grant is provided if you and your companion travel by personal vehicle.
- Other travel expenses, such as meals, are not covered.

For more details on travel assistance and a CTSTA application, please contact your Care Connector at 1-888-883-3313.