KEY MESSAGES

Key community eye health messages

Accurate biometry is essential for good sight outcomes after cataract operations

- Measure both eyes and cross-check readings to identify errors before selecting the intraocular lens (IOL) power
- Use optical biometry wherever possible for greater precision; if ultrasound is used, ensure the probe is properly aligned and corneal compression is avoided
- Confirm that the IOL power calculation formula (for example, SRK/T, Holladay 1, or Barrett Universal II) is appropriate for the eye's axial length
- Regularly calibrate and maintain the biometer to prevent drift and inaccurate measurements
- Recheck calculations or repeat measurements when results differ greatly between eyes or seem inconsistent with refraction

Choosing and maintaining good-quality intraocular lenses (IOLs) matters

- Always perform accurate axial length and keratometry measurements to calculate IOL power precisely
- Use a biometry formula that matches your patient population and available technology (e.g. SRK/T, Barrett Universal II)
- Inspect IOL packaging and labelling carefully before use to confirm power, sterility, and expiry date
- Record the IOL model and power in the patient's record for postoperative audits and quality monitoring

Monitoring refractive outcomes helps improve cataract services

- Record the unaided and best-corrected sight of each patient at follow-up to assess surgical outcomes
- Compare the achieved postoperative refraction with the target refraction to identify sources of error
- Keep a register of refractive outcomes by surgeon or service site to monitor trends and guide quality improvement
- Review outcome data regularly and discuss findings during team meetings to plan corrective actions
- Use simple tools or software to calculate the mean prediction error and maintain records for audits

Training and teamwork ensure safe and consistent biometry and IOL practices

- Provide regular hands-on training for staff performing axial length and keratometry measurements
- Develop and follow standard operating procedures (SOPs) for biometry, IOL storage, and recording outcomes
- Encourage communication between the operating team, optometrists, nurses, and counsellors to avoid avoidable errors
- Assign clear roles and checklists for each stage of cataract service delivery to maintain efficiency and accountability