

PATIENT GUIDE: “Are PC-IOLs right for me?”



FOR THE CLINICIAN Prepare and identify vision goals



PREPARE PATIENTS BEFORE THEIR CONSULTATION¹⁻³

Clinical pearl: The best outcomes occur when patients begin learning and reflecting on their vision goals before the consultation—not during it.

Consider strategies to educate and prepare patients before their consultation, including:

- ☐ Practice website education on cataract surgery and presbyopia-correcting intraocular lens (PC-IOL) options
- ☐ Pre-visit educational materials by mail or email
- ☐ Pre-visit phone calls to reinforce key information and answer questions
- ☐ Encourage patients to review educational materials before the consultation to support informed shared decision-making



SHARED-DECISION MAKING¹⁻³

Clinical pearl: Expectation alignment is one of the strongest predictors of satisfaction. Clear communication improves satisfaction.

- ☐ Use a structured decision aid or counseling tool to improve preparation for decision-making and satisfaction with lens choice
- ☐ Discuss lens options were explained in plain language
- ☐ Clearly explain benefits, limitations, and trade-offs of each technology
- ☐ Explain that adaptation takes time and early visual effects are common
- ☐ Discuss possible visual outcomes:
 - ☐ Glare, halos, starbursts
 - ☐ Contrast reduction
 - Possible need for glasses



PATIENT LIFESTYLE AND VISION GOALS¹⁻³

Clinical pearl: Structured discussion helps match the right lens to the right patient. Refractive cataract surgery can help customize a patient's vision—it is not a one-size fits all solution.

Use a structured vision questionnaire to understand how patients use their vision each day, including:

- ☐ Reading / fine detail
- ☐ Computer / screen time
- ☐ Driving (especially at night)
- ☐ Occupational tasks
- ☐ Hobbies / sports



EXPLAINING TRADE-OFFS¹⁻⁴

Clinical pearl: No lens is perfect therefore alignment with patient priorities is critical. Every option balance vision range, quality, and side effects.

- ☐ Explain the different lens types:
 - ☐ Monofocal
 - ☐ Extended depth-of-focus (EDOF)
 - ☐ Multifocal / trifocal
- ☐ Explain key trade-offs:
 - ☐ Increased range of vision may reduce contrast
 - ☐ Some lenses increase halos and glare
 - ☐ Improved near vision may involve visual side effects

Patient lifestyle and priorities guide this decision.



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This resource is part of the CME-accredited program *Sharper focus: Advancing surgical decision-making with next-generation PC-IOLs*. Access the full program and earn free CME credit.



SPECIAL EYE CONDITIONS (IMPORTANT TO DISCUSS)³⁻⁴

Clinical pearl: Appropriate selection and expectation setting are essential in complex eyes. Certain eye conditions influence lens selection, accuracy, and expected outcomes.

Identify if these conditions are present and discuss with the patient potential impacts on outcomes.

- ☐ Prior refractive surgery (LASIK, PRK, or RK).
- ☐ Dry eye disease
- ☐ Corneal conditions (epithelial basement membrane dystrophy, Salzmann's nodules)
- ☐ Previous eye surgery (prior retinal detachment, macular pathology such as epiretinal membrane)



COST & VALUE ALIGNMENT¹⁻³

Clinical pearl: Cost–expectation alignment is a major driver of satisfaction. Discuss any additional out-of-pocket costs associated with advanced technology IOLs.

- ☐ Review that standard IOLs are typically covered by insurance, whereas advanced-technology IOLs may involve additional out-of-pocket costs.
- ☐ Discuss the potential out-of-pocket costs associated with premium IOL options.
- ☐ Explain the benefits, limitations, and trade-offs associated with the selected IOL option.
- ☐ Clarify that higher-cost lenses do not guarantee complete spectacle independence.
- ☐ Confirm that the anticipated benefits align with the patient's visual goals, lifestyle needs, and budget.
- ☐ Ensure the patient understands the value and expected outcomes of the selected IOL option.



FINAL SHARED DECISION CHECK¹⁻³

Clinical pearl: Confidence + understanding + realistic expectations = improved satisfaction.

- ☐ Confirm that the patient understands the:
 - ☐ Available IOL options and associated trade-offs.
 - ☐ Potential visual effects and the adaptation process.
 - ☐ Costs, benefits, and overall value of the selected option.
- ☐ Feels:
 - ☐ The selected lens aligns with personal lifestyle and visual priorities.
 - ☐ Comfortable asking questions and has received clear, understandable answers.
 - ☐ Informed, confident, and ready to proceed with the treatment decision.
- ☐ Has realistic expectations regarding spectacle independence.



POSTOPERATIVE EXPECTATIONS & FOLLOW-UP¹⁻³

Clinical pearl: Outcomes depend on recovery, adaptation, and ongoing care. Recovery and adaptation are part of the process.

- ☐ Set expectations that visual recovery occurs over time rather than immediately.
- ☐ Reinforce that neuroadaptation may take weeks to months.
- ☐ Emphasize the importance of attending scheduled follow-up visits.
- ☐ Clarify that glasses may still be needed for some activities.
- ☐ Review potential optimization options, if needed:
 - ☐ Glasses or contact lenses
 - ☐ Laser vision enhancement
 - ☐ Rarely, lens exchange
- Prepare patients for temporary visual fluctuations during the healing process.



— IF THE PATIENT IS NOT FULLY SATISFIED²⁻³

Clinical pearl: Dissatisfaction is usually due to treatable factors—not implant failure.

- ☐ Most causes are treatable.
- ☐ Evaluate visual acuity, including refraction and corneal topography
- ☐ Assess tear film and ocular surface
- ☐ Evaluate retina and eye health
- ☐ Assess lens-related factors- rule out lens malposition (i.e., tilt, decentration)

COUNSELING PEARLS¹⁻⁴

- ☐ Halos and glare are common early and often improve with time and neuroadaptation
- ☐ Glasses may still be needed for some tasks
- ☐ Dissatisfaction usually reflects expectation mismatch—not device failure
- ☐ Best outcomes require the right lens, the right eye, and the right expectations



Successful PC-IOL outcomes depend on aligning lifestyle, visual expectations, ocular health, and cost—supported by structured shared decision-making before surgery.

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This toolkit is designed for use during preoperative consultations. Healthcare professionals can use the framework to assess patient goals, discuss lens options, and align expectations.

The next pages contain an accompanying patient handout. This can be provided during or after the consultation to reinforce key messages and support informed decision-making.



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FOR THE PATIENT Prepare for the consultation

MY PRE-VISIT CHECKLIST

Patient pearl: The best lens choice is one that aligns with your vision goals, lifestyle needs, and expectations. Preparing before your consultation can help you ask informed questions and make decisions together with your eye surgeon.

- ☐ Review any educational materials provided by your eye care team (website, email, mailings, videos, or brochures).
- ☐ Learn the basics of cataract surgery and available lens options before your appointment.
- ☐ Write down and bring your questions, vision goals, and expectations to your appointment.
- ☐ Consider how important reducing your dependence on glasses is to you.
- ☐ Talk with family members or care partners if you would like their input before the consultation.
- ☐ Ask your eye care team about any information you do not understand.
- ☐ Arrive ready to participate in a shared decision-making discussion with your eye surgeon.



MY VISION GOALS

Patient pearl: Choosing the right lens is a personal decision. This checklist can help you think about your vision goals, understand your options, and prepare for a discussion with your eye surgeon.

I have thought about the activities that are most important to my daily vision:

- ☐ Reading books, menus, or labels
- ☐ Using a computer, tablet, or smartphone
- ☐ Driving during the day
- ☐ Driving at night
- ☐ Work-related visual tasks
- ☐ Hobbies, sports, or other activities
- ☐ I have discussed these priorities with my eye surgeon.



UNDERSTANDING MY LENS OPTIONS

- ☐ Different lens options provide different ranges of vision.
- ☐ No lens can provide perfect vision in every situation.
- ☐ My lifestyle and visual goals help determine which lens may be best for me.
- ☐ Discussed the benefits and limitations of my lens options with my eye surgeon.



UNDERSTANDING POSSIBLE VISUAL EFFECTS

- ☐ I may notice halos, glare, or starbursts around lights, especially at night.
- ☐ Some lens options may affect night vision more than others.
- ☐ These visual effects often improve over time as my brain adapts.
- ☐ Some patients still need glasses for certain activities after surgery.



MY EYE HEALTH

- ☐ I have discussed with my surgeon:
- ☐ Previous eye surgeries or vision correction procedures (such as LASIK, PRK, or RK).
 - ☐ Eye conditions that could affect my results.
- ☐ I understand that my eye health may influence which lens options are most appropriate for me.



COST & VALUE

- ☐ I understand:
- ☐ Which lens options are typically covered by insurance.
 - ☐ Whether my chosen lens may involve additional out-of-pocket costs.
 - ☐ That a higher-cost lens does not guarantee that I will never need glasses.
- ☐ I believe the potential benefits of my chosen lens align with my vision goals, lifestyle needs, and budget.



FINAL DECISION CHECK

Patient pearl: The best lens choice is one that aligns with your vision goals, lifestyle needs, and expectations. Understanding your options, having realistic expectations, and feeling informed can help you feel confident in your decision.

Before surgery:

- ☐ I understand the:
- ☐ Lens options available to me.
 - ☐ Benefits and trade-offs of my chosen lens.
- ☐ My questions have been answered in a way that I understand.
- ☐ I have realistic expectations about my vision after surgery.
- ☐ I feel:
- ☐ Confident that my lens choice aligns with my lifestyle and visual priorities.
 - ☐ Informed and ready to make a decision.



RECOVERY & FOLLOW-UP

- ☐ I understand that:
- ☐ My vision may improve gradually after surgery.
 - ☐ Adjustment to a new lens may take weeks or months.
 - ☐ Temporary visual changes can occur during healing.
 - ☐ Additional treatments, glasses, or vision correction may occasionally be needed to optimize my results.
- ☐ I plan to attend all recommended follow-up appointments.



KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

- ☐ I understand that:
- ☐ No lens is perfect for every person or every activity.
 - ☐ Some visual effects, such as halos and glare, are common early after surgery and often improve over time.
 - ☐ Glasses may still be needed for certain tasks.
 - ☐ The best outcomes occur when your lens choice matches your lifestyle, eye health, and expectations.
 - ☐ Understanding the benefits and trade-offs of each option helps you make an informed decision with your surgeon.