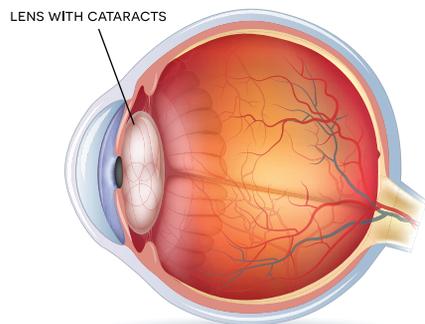
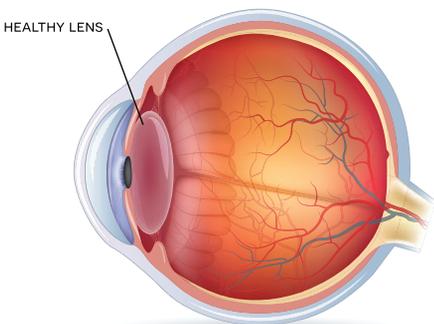


# WHAT IS A CATARACT?

- A cataract is the progressive clouding of the eye's natural lens. This clouding causes a decrease in your vision and can lead to blindness.
- During cataract surgery your cloudy natural lens is removed and replaced with a clear artificial lens. That lens is called an intraocular lens (IOL). Your ophthalmologist will talk to you about IOLs, how they work, and the best option for you.
- If reducing the need for glasses is important to you, you may opt for one of our premium cataract packages to help achieve your vision goals. Our team will work with you to identify your visual goals and customize your plan for cataract surgery.
- You may visit our website at [www.northidahoeeye.com](http://www.northidahoeeye.com) for more details about cataract surgery, our surgeons, and our refractive cataract surgery options.



## YOUR CATARACT SURGERY EXPERIENCE AT NORTH IDAHO EYE INSTITUTE

1. One of our cataract surgeons will discuss with you whether surgery would be beneficial. Your vision goals and personalized surgical plan will be determined at this visit. Please allow approximately 2 hours for this visit as it includes measurements of your eye and a thorough dilated exam. Please arrange to have a driver beforehand, as we do not recommend driving while dilated. If you wear contacts, please let our scheduling team know as you need to be out of contacts for at least 2 weeks before your measurements, depending on the type of contact lens you wear.
2. If you have opted to move forward with cataract surgery, we will submit your information to our billing team to begin any prior authorizations that may be required by your insurance. Fees for your postoperative drops will be collected at your surgical consult appointment. You will need these drops after surgery.
3. You will receive a phone call from a surgery scheduler to schedule your surgery and post-operative visits.
4. As your surgery date approaches, you will receive another call to review your health history, medication list, and allergies. You will receive a separate call the day before your surgery with specific instructions about your surgery.
5. On surgery day, please check in at our surgery center on the lower level of our Coeur d'Alene clinic. Please allow approximately 2 hours for the entire surgical process. You will need someone to drive you to and

from your surgery. You should have someone with you for the first night to assist you after surgery.

6. You will be scheduled to follow up the next day with your surgeon in the clinic. You will need a driver for this visit.
7. Two weeks after your surgery, you will follow up with either your surgeon or the optometrist who referred you.
8. We will repeat this process for your second eye surgery.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS OF CATARACT SURGERY?

As with any surgery, there is a risk of complications such as:

- Eye infection
- Bleeding in the eye
- Ongoing swelling of the front or inside of the eye
- Swelling or detachment of the retina
- Damage to other parts of your eye
- Vision loss
- Lens dislocation

## MORE INFORMATION ONLINE

[www.northidahoeve.com](http://www.northidahoeve.com)

After cataract surgery, your ophthalmologist may prescribe a series of post-operative eye drops to help with the healing process and ensure the best possible outcome.

**These post-operative eye drops have several benefits:**

**Infection Prevention:** Antibiotic eye drops are often prescribed to prevent infection. After surgery, there is a small risk of infection, and using antibiotic drops helps reduce this risk. It's essential to follow your doctor's instructions on when and how to use these drops.

**Inflammation Control:** Steroid eye drops are commonly used to reduce inflammation in the eye. Cataract surgery can cause mild to moderate inflammation, which can lead to discomfort, redness, and swelling. Steroid drops help control these symptoms, promoting a quicker recovery.

**Pain Relief:** While cataract surgery is generally not painful, some patients may experience mild discomfort or irritation after the procedure. Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory eye drops (NSAIDs) can help alleviate this discomfort and reduce pain.

**Promote Healing:** Certain eye drops contain lubricants or artificial tears, which can help keep the eye moist and comfortable. These drops promote healing and reduce dryness or irritation that can occur after surgery.

**Reducing Intraocular Pressure:** In some cases, patients with glaucoma or elevated intraocular pressure may need additional eye drops to manage these conditions after cataract surgery. Your doctor will determine if this is necessary based on your individual circumstances.

**Do I have to get the compounded drops from your surgery center?**

No, you can get these drops in separate bottles, billed to your insurance company from your pharmacy, and follow that regimen of 3 drops of each per eye 3-4 times a day depending on your surgeon's instructions.

We have found for the majority of our patients, the compounded drop we offer from our surgery center is significantly lower in cost to the patient, even after insurance, and allows the patient to use one bottle, 1 drop, 3 times a day. This has improved patient drop compliance.

# BEFORE & AFTER CATARACT SURGERY

## BEFORE YOUR CATARACT SURGERY

- A driver is required for the day of surgery and the first day post-operative visit.
- You may not have food, candy, gum, or chewing tobacco up to 8 hours before arrival for surgery.
- You may have CLEAR LIQUIDS ONLY (water, apple juice, clear soda) up to 2 hours before arrival.
- Nothing by mouth AT ALL in the 2 hours prior to arrival, this includes gum, mints, or chewing tobacco.
- No alcohol consumption for 24 hours before or after surgery.
- Day of surgery: Please shower before arrival to help prevent infection. Do not wear makeup, perfume, jewelry or lotions on your face. Keep dentures or hearing aids in place. Wear a shortsleeved shirt with buttons or snaps up the front.
- We use a specialty compounding pharmacy to simplify your post-operative medications and lower the out of pocket cost for our patients. You will need a bottle for each eye. If you have not selected one of our packages, the cost for your medication is \$70 per eye. The medication, along with instructions for taking these drops, will be given when you are discharged from the surgery center.

## AFTER YOUR CATARACT SURGERY

- You will need to use eye drops after surgery. Drops and instructions will be given to you on the day of your surgery.
- You will need to see your surgeon the next day and either your surgeon or an optometrist 2 weeks after your surgery. Please arrange a driver beforehand.
- You can shower normally after your first follow up appointment, but avoid swimming, hot tubs, or getting soap or water directly in the eye for 2 weeks.
- Do not touch or rub your eye for at least 2 weeks after surgery.
- No makeup or face cream on or around the eye for 2 weeks after surgery.
- Wear your eye shield while sleeping for the first week after surgery.
- No lifting 15 pounds or more for 7 days after surgery.
- Tylenol, aspirin, or ibuprofen can be taken for pain as needed.

STILL HAVE QUESTIONS? WE'RE HERE TO HELP!

**Billing Department:** 208-667-5540

**Surgery Counselors:** 208-500-2048

**Surgery Center:** 208-664-2600

# CATARACT SURGERY PACKAGES

We offer four cataract packages that emphasize refractive outcomes, customized to our patients' individual needs and visual expectations.

## CATARACT PACKAGE 1 \$

- Subject to your insurance deductible, co-insurance, and/or copay.
- Standard Monofocal lens selection.
- Focused for distance OR near.
- For optimal vision, you will need to wear vision correction for all distances.

## CATARACT PACKAGE 2 \$\$

- Cataract surgery for increased refractive precision and astigmatism correction.
- Astigmatism correction if necessary.
- Monofocal lens focused for distance OR near.
- If focused for distance, you will need vision correction for near reading.
- If focused for near, you will need vision correction for distance.
- If your vision goal is not met after cataract surgery, you may be eligible for additional laser enhancement at no additional cost. This enhancement offer is valid for up to one year post surgery.

See other side →

### **CATARACT PACKAGE 3 \$\$\$**

- Cataract surgery for increased refractive precision and astigmatism correction.
- Astigmatism correction if necessary.
- Multifocal or extended depth of focus (EDOF) lens, giving you the greatest range of functional vision.
- May need glasses for some reading tasks.
- Increased risk of night time glare/halos due to the structure of the multifocal lens itself, which allows for vision at different distances.
- If your vision goal is not met after cataract surgery, you may be eligible for additional laser enhancement at no additional cost. This enhancement offer is valid for up to one year post surgery.

### **CATARACT PACKAGE 4 \$\$\$\$**

- Cataract surgery for increased refractive precision with adjustments in the refraction post operatively.
- Astigmatism correction if necessary.
- Light Adjustable Lens used that can be adjusted post operatively using a Light Delivery Device.
- May need glasses for some reading tasks.
- If your vision goal is not met after cataract surgery, you may be eligible for additional laser enhancement at no additional cost. This enhancement offer is valid for up to one year post surgery.

End results will be dependent on pre-existing eye conditions, prior ocular surgeries, and patient compliance with at-home dry eye remedies.

For further information, please contact a surgical coordinator at **(208)-500-2048**.

# FINANCIAL INFORMATION

North Idaho Eye Institute and North Idaho Cataract & Laser will make every effort to bill your insurance company for cataract surgery. Prior to your procedure, we will contact your insurance company to obtain prior authorization requirements, benefit information, deductible, co-insurance, and co-payment amounts for which you will be responsible.

Patients are required to pay their out-of-pocket expenses a minimum of one week prior to the surgery. These costs include medication, surgery out of pocket expenses and any premium lens or cataract surgery package. An estimate of costs for the services selected will be provided to you prior to the procedure.

Please make sure to contact your insurance provider to fully understand your benefits and responsibilities. Each policy is different, and your insurance company will have the most accurate and up-to-date information regarding your specific coverage.

Cataract surgery packages 2, 3, & 4 are not billable to your insurance and are in addition to the insurance out-of-pocket expense that you may have. You are required to pay your deductible, co-insurance and/or co-payment in addition to the cataract surgery package that you may choose.

Our estimate does not include fees for anesthesia. Those fees will be billed to the patient separately by the anesthesia provider. You may contact Fusion Anesthesia Solutions with any questions you may have about the cost of anesthesia at (844)499-2442.

Our billing office is available to answer any additional questions regarding your financial obligations for the surgical procedure. Please feel free to reach out to them by calling (208)667-5540.

Health insurance can sometimes seem like a complex puzzle, but we're here to help you make informed decisions about your healthcare costs. By understanding your insurance, you can better manage your healthcare expenses and make the most of your insurance coverage.

**Copays:**

Think of copays as your "entry fee" for a doctor's visit or a prescription. It's a fixed amount you pay each time you access healthcare services. For example, you might have a \$20 copay for a regular doctor's appointment or a \$10 copay for generic prescription medications.

**Deductibles:**

A deductible is like a healthcare "deduction" before your insurance kicks in. It's the amount you pay out of your pocket before your insurance company starts covering your medical bills. Let's say you have a \$1,000 deductible. If you have a surgery bill of \$2,000, you would pay the first \$1,000, and then your insurance would cover the remaining \$1,000. Deductibles reset each year, so you'll start fresh with a new deductible at the beginning of your insurance plan year.

**Coinsurance:**

Coinsurance is your share of the costs after you've met your deductible. It's usually expressed as a percentage. For instance, if your coinsurance is 20%, you would pay 20% of the medical expenses, and your insurance would cover the remaining 80%. So, if you have a \$100 doctor's bill after meeting your \$1,000 deductible, you'd pay \$20 (20%), and your insurance would cover the remaining \$80.

**Out-of-Pocket Maximums:**

Your out-of-pocket maximum is like an insurance safety net. It's the maximum amount you'll pay for covered healthcare services in a year. Once you reach this limit, your insurance covers 100% of your eligible medical expenses. This includes your copays, deductibles, and coinsurance. Knowing your out-of-pocket maximum can give you peace of mind, as it ensures that you won't face catastrophic medical bills.

Still have questions? Give us a call! (208)667-5540