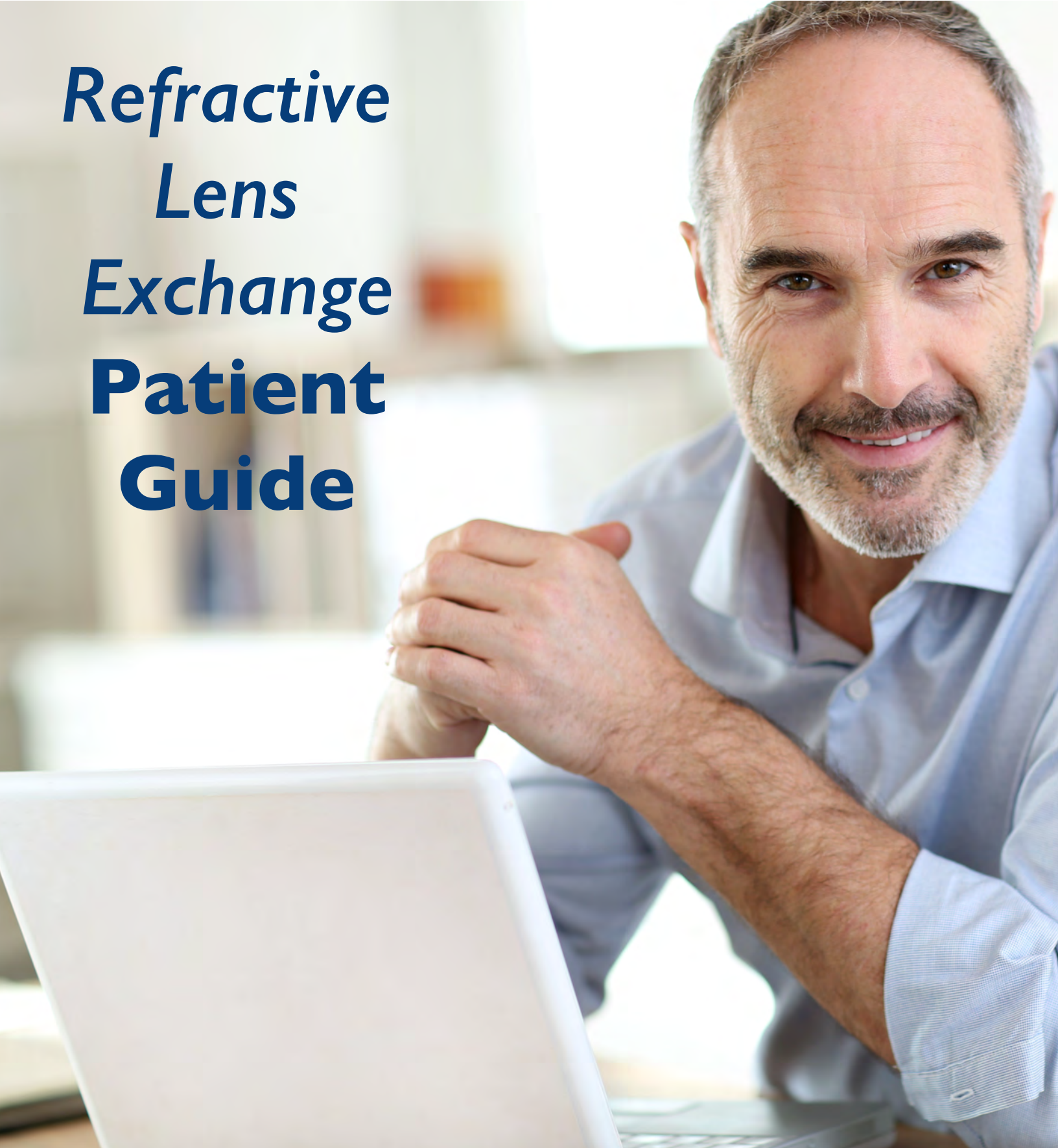


# *Refractive Lens Exchange Patient Guide*



**CONLON**  
EYE INSTITUTE

LOCAL.TRUSTED.**COMMITTED.**

LASER REFRACTIVE • COSMETIC EYELID • PREMIUM CATARACT



## TIRED OF READING GLASSES?

Over the age of forty, many people find close-up visual focusing increasingly difficult. Such individuals will compensate for this decline by holding reading material farther away from themselves. This decrease in focusing ability is symptomatic of presbyopia, a common age-related eye condition. Presbyopia is caused by a stiffening to the eye's crystalline lens and ring of tiny muscles surrounding it. As presbyopia worsens, many people come to rely on reading glasses for clear near vision.

Refractive Lens Exchange (RLE) is the only surgical procedure that treats presbyopia by replacing the eye's natural lens with an artificial intraocular lens (IOL). Inserting an artificial lens corrects refractive error, including both nearsightedness and farsightedness. RLE also provides the dual advantage of preventing the need for future cataract surgery, as an artificial lens is not susceptible to cataracts.

Ophthalmologist, Dr. M. Ronan Conlon, is the Medical Director of the Conlon Eye Institute. Establishing his clinic in 1994, he offers innovative procedures treating a range of eye concerns, specializing in laser and traditional cataract surgery. He has conducted over twenty-thousand refractive eye surgeries throughout his career.

***“Individuals want the freedom of choice regarding their eye care and I have developed my practice around offering services that enhance one’s own lifestyle from a visual perspective. Everybody wants to see clearly.” – Dr. M. Ronan Conlon***





## WHO IS A CANDIDATE FOR RLE?

You may be a candidate for RLE surgery if you:

- Are forty-five or older with farsighted vision.
- Do not qualify as a candidate for laser eye surgery, due to acute nearsightedness or farsightedness.
- Wear bifocals or progressives lenses for both reading and distance vision.

## HOW DOES RLE DIFFER FROM CATARACT SURGERY?

Both RLE and cataract surgery replace the eye's natural lens, with a permanent man-made one instead. The difference is that RLE is an elective procedure, simply decreasing the need for glasses, while removing a formed cataract is medically necessary, as adequate vision cannot be achieved otherwise.

## WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT LENSES?

Saskatchewan's Medical Services Branch (MSB) does not cover RLE implants but they are available for private purchase. These include:

- A toric implant which reduces spherical aberration and enhances vision quality. Also reduces astigmatism, making it the best choice for higher degree astigmatism patients. Astigmatism correction is actually built directly into a toric implant and then rotated to a specific orientation in the eye.
- A multifocal implant can improve both distance and near vision without glasses. This type of implant may cause glare and/or halos but these symptoms tend to diminish with time.



## WHAT TESTING IS REQUIRED PRIOR TO RLE?

The Conlon Eye Institute carries out the following tests and measurements prior to surgery:

- Computerized Topography images both sides of the cornea, to determine the degree of corneal astigmatism and orientation, and thus reduce astigmatism. Forms of treatment include laser arcuate incisions, limbal relaxing incisions, and/or a toric implant.
- The IOL Master 700 determines intraocular lens power. This device measures the front of the eye's curvature and its length. This information is used to calculate the lens' power.
- Macular Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT) is used to examine the macula, prior to RLE, to confirm the macular health, and thus eliminating any contraindication for RLE.

## WILL RLE SURGERY INCREASE MY CHANCES OF GETTING A CATARACT?

Cataracts are a clouding of the eye's natural lens. As RLE surgery removes the natural lenses, RLE eliminates the possibility of cataract development.





## WHAT TECHNOLOGY DOES DR. CONLON USE TO PERFORM RLE?

The Conlon Eye Institute uses only the latest technologies to ensure optimal patient outcomes are achieved. For RLE, the LenSX Femtosecond Laser, and the ORA with VerifEye+ Systems, are combined to produce such results:

LenSX Femtosecond Laser performs surgical maneuvers previously undertaken with hand-held surgical tools. This blade-free laser technology completes corneal incisions, anterior capsulotomy and lens fragmentation with a newfound level of precision, consistently ensuring the best refractive outcomes.

The ORA with VerifEye+ System predicts whether a chosen implant will optimize your refractive outcome. Using this information, Dr. Conlon can adjust the implant as needed. The ORA system guides Dr. Conlon during IOL placement, providing real-time micro-measurements mid-surgery, allowing Dr. Conlon to adjust accordingly.

## DOES INSURANCE PAY FOR RLE?

RLE is not considered to be a medically necessary procedure and therefore not covered by MSB (Saskatchewan Health.) If you have private health insurance, then you will need to check with your provider regarding coverage.



## WHAT COMPLICATIONS MAY OCCUR WITH RLE?

One percent of patients experience postoperative complications. Despite efforts to avoid such complications, the following may occur:

- Eye infection (1 in 10,000 cases), usually requires emergency surgery, additional antibiotics and may result in vision loss. Dr. Conlon has not had a case of an intraocular infection in over twenty years.
- Posterior ocular swelling (1 in 500 cases), is usually resolved with antibiotic drops.
- Failed removal of the crystalline lens after one operation (1 in 1,000 cases), thus necessitating a second operation.
- Retinal detachment, occurs when the thin tissue at the back of the eye pulls away from its normal position (1 in 1,000 cases). Requires surgical retinal reattachment.





## ABOUT THE CONLON EYE INSTITUTE

The Conlon Eye Institute is a state-of-the-art medical and surgical ophthalmological facility located within the Medical Arts Building in Saskatoon. Founded by Dr. M. Ronan Conlon, the Conlon Eye Institute specializes in refractive laser surgery, premium cataract surgery, Refractive Lens Exchange and eyelid surgery.

The Conlon Eye Institute is equipped with cutting edge diagnostic and therapeutic equipment. These include optical coherence tomography, Visante Omni OCT, corneal microscopy, Humphrey Visual Field Analyzer, digital fundus photography, IOL Master biometry, corneal topography, selective laser trabeculoplasty, wide-field scanning laser ophthalmoscopy and fluorescein angiography. The facility is fully accredited by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan, and is the only non-hospital based facility dedicated to eye care in Saskatchewan.

## DR. M. RONAN CONLON



Dr. M. Ronan Conlon has been practicing ophthalmology in Saskatoon since 1994. He specializes in refractive laser surgery (LASIK and PRK), refractive lens exchange (RLE), premium laser cataract surgery, cosmetic eyelid surgery and eyelid reconstruction. Recognized as an innovative leader in his field, Dr. Conlon was the first surgeon in Saskatchewan to perform both LASIK Laser Flap (Intralase) Creation and Laser Cataract Surgery. With sub-specialty training in oculoplastic surgery, he is also an expert in cosmetic and reconstructive eyelid surgery.

Dr. Conlon completed his residency training in ophthalmology at the University of Western Ontario in 1991. Dr. Conlon has completed 3 years of fellowship training in ophthalmology; one year at Harvard University (1991-1992) and two years at the University of Iowa Hospital and Clinics (1992-1994). Dr. Conlon first began performing PRK and LASIK surgery in 1995, and was one of the founding refractive surgeons at Horizon Laser Vision Center.

## BOOK YOUR CONSULTATION TODAY

Making the decision to undergo an RLE procedure is not to be taken lightly. Like any medical procedure, you want to be sure the team entrusted to your care is experienced, compassionate and committed. As a patient of the Conlon Eye Institute, that's exactly what you can expect - regardless of what procedure you choose.

To determine whether you are a candidate for RLE, book an appointment with the Conlon Eye Institute. Dr. Conlon will recommend a customized treatment plan to meet your specific visual needs.

### **Conlon Eye Institute**

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