

Summary: EQ+ equipment is considered to be high-cost, high-tech eye care equipment. Equipment classified as EQ+ per this policy and deemed necessary for the implementation of project activities by the local SightFirst Technical Advisor will be individually subject to a 50% matching requirement by the applicants, unless specifically waived by the SightFirst Advisory Committee (SAC). The cost of equipment will be based on best available prices and will include an estimation of taxes, shipment, technical assistance on-site and associated costs. *Matching funds for the equipment will need to be collected before the foundation will issue a disbursement for the equipment.*

Rationale: The SAC understands that access to comprehensive, quality eye care means applying current practices and techniques, and ophthalmology sometimes requires sophisticated equipment. EQ+ devices can be considered in SightFirst proposals when these are needed to provide quality eye care services. At the same time, the SightFirst program must keep in mind that its resources are provided by the Lions for the most necessary interventions and to the benefit of the largest number of people in need. Further, the resources are finite and reasonably priced items are often available that have demonstrated to provide equally effective services. A balance between availability of investment capital, intended patient outcomes and impact on community eye health is important to maintain.

Criteria: The following criteria has been approved by the SAC relative to the service environment that must exist at the targeted eye care facilities for EQ+ equipment to be included in an application for funding.

- The institution must at minimum have provided services for at least three to five years prior to the submission of the proposal. It is understood that facilities with over 10 years of existence are well-established and should not require EQ+ funding;
- The institution has on staff full time equivalent (FTE) ophthalmologists, demonstrated capacity to treat chronic eye disease (CED), and agreement to treat for CED as a part of general care services (e.g., pediatrics, diabetes, geriatrics.);
- The institution should present a three year service growth plan that demonstrates an intent and ability to grow services in the outpatient department (OPD) and operating theater (OT) at 10%, 15%, 30%, respectively;
- The institution must demonstrate an ability, confirmed by electronic or paper records, to provide quality care supported by Visual Acuity and/or Visual Function outcomes, follow-up care capacity with compliance of 70% or more, capacity to use personal communication equipment for operating follow-up and post-operative care. In addition, on staff FTE ophthalmologists must be able to demonstrate their competence in managing CED through the presentation of records of internship at a training institute, training certificates, and records supported by the institution's medical director of ability to treat CEDs (for which EQ+ is requested);
- The institution should demonstrate the accessibility to affordable medicines for the long-term treatment of more complex eye diseases through government essential medicine schemes OR insurance coverage OR other long-term programs (humanitarian, charitable, self- purchase). The institution should also demonstrate ability to procure for spare parts, and a successful patient education program;
- The institution may seek support for EQ+ equipment to a maximum of 50% of the international reference price (refer to IAPB Standard list). An on-site maintenance contract for a minimum of three years will be required, as will a demonstrated ability to procure and pay for spare parts.

The following chart provides guidance on the question of which equipment items fall within the EQ+ category. Please refer any questions about the chart to Global Health Initiatives staff or the local SightFirst Technical Advisor.

SightFirst EQ+ Equipment
Multiplex echography
Visual field analyzers/auto-perimeters
OCT/OCT angiography
Phacoemulsification machines
Multiplex phacovitreal equipment
Lasers
Operating/surgical microscopes with teaching view/video line-out/CCVT
Wet lab

Follow-up: Every two years, the range of equipment considered as EQ+ is reviewed by the SightFirst Working Group and Global Health Initiatives staff to take into account the evolution of technology and science in ophthalmology. The equipment list review is based on international standards of care, preferred practice patterns, market dynamics, and proven scientific discoveries.