

CHLORAMPHENICOL (OPHTHALMIC)

Read in conjunction with [Disclaimer](#)

Formulary: Unrestricted	
Presentation	Eye Drop: 5 mg/mL (0.5%) Eye Ointment: 10 mg/mL (1%)
Drug Class	Antibacterial (broad spectrum antibiotic)
Indication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bacterial infections of the eye and lids due to susceptible organisms Prevention of eye infection after ocular procedure (including ranibizumab intravitreal injection) or superficial trauma
Special Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Containers are for single patient use Continue treatment for minimum 2 days after eye appears normal
Monitoring	Duration of therapy
Interactions	Nil significant
Side Effects	Infrequent: unpleasant taste
	Rare: Allergy (e.g. local reactions, angioedema, anaphylaxis), dermatitis. <u>Usually associated with prolonged therapy:</u> blood dyscrasia; overgrowth of new susceptible organisms.
Storage & Stability	Drops: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Store at 2-8°C until opened. Protect from light After opening, store below 25°C and discard after 28 days
	Ointment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Store below 25°C. Protect from light Discard 28 days after opening
Comments	Duration of therapy ranges from 5 to 7 days. To be reviewed according to response.



OPHTHALMIC

Presentation	Eye Drops: 5 mg/mL (0.5%) Eye Ointment: 10 mg/mL (1%)
Dosage	<u>Treatment of Eye Infection</u> Eye Drops: Instil 1 drop into the affected eye, every 2 to 6 hours. Continue for 2 to 3 days until symptoms begin to resolve, then; Decrease to 1 drop every 6 to 8 hours.
	Eye Ointment: Apply 0.5 to 1 cm to affected eye, every - 6 to 8 hours, OR, Can be used at night when drops are used during the day.
Preparation	<u>Prevention of Eye Infection (after ocular procedure or superficial trauma)</u> Eye Drops: Instil 1 drop into the affected eye, every 6 hours until epithelium healed (usual duration 3 to 5 days).
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not required
Administration	Eye Drops: Hold eyelids apart and apply directly onto eye <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nasolacrimal occlusion or gently closing the eyelid after administration may reduce the systemic absorption and result in a decrease in systemic adverse reactions. Eye Ointment: Apply to inner eyelid of the affected eye

Related Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines

Clinical Practice Guidelines:

[Neonatology – Sepsis](#)

[Neonatology – Eye Care: Eye Infections and Conjunctivitis](#)

WNHS Pharmaceutical and Medicines Management Guidelines:

[Cold Chain Management for Medications and Vaccines](#)

References

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Document history

Keywords	Chloramphenicol, chlorsig, ocular infection, eye infection, eye drops, eye ointment				
Document Owner:	Chief Pharmacist				
Author/ Reviewer	KEMH & PCH Pharmacy/Neonatology Directorate				
Version Info:	4.0 - full review, new template, addition of prevention as an indication (Dec 2023)				
Date First Issued:	January 2001	Last Reviewed:	08/12/2023	Review Date:	08/12/2028
Endorsed by:	Neonatal Directorate Management Group			Date:	27/02/2024
NSQHS Standards Applicable:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  Std 1: Clinical Governance		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  Std 4: Medication Safety		
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