

EYE – ADMINISTRATION OF EYE DROPS TO A NEONATE

This LOP is developed to guide safe clinical practice in Newborn Care Centre (NCC) at The Royal Hospital for Women. Individual patient circumstances may mean that practice diverges from this Local Operations Procedure (LOP).

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1. AIM

- To appropriately administer eye drops to a neonate

2. PATIENT

- Newborns

3. STAFF

- Medical and nursing staff

4. EQUIPMENT

- Expressed breast milk or oral sucrose
- Gloves
- Medication chart with eye drops ordered
- Prescribed eye drops for administration

5. CLINICAL PRACTICE

Procedure:

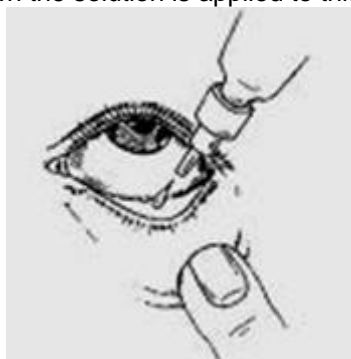
1. Identify that the eye drops have been prescribed by the medical doctor.
2. Obtain the appropriate eye drops.
3. Check the medication with a RN/RM.
4. Perform hand hygiene and put on gloves.
5. Give expressed breast milk (preferred) or sucrose and swaddle the infant.

Eye Checks for Retinopathy of Prematurity:

6. Administer the drops when the ophthalmologist contacts NCC to inform that they are on their way to the unit.

NOTE: Consent from parent/s is required for Cyclomydril
If consent is not provided for Cyclomydril, use Cyclopentolate and

7. Ensure the neonate is supine.
8. Use index finger to pull the lower eye lid downward while the other hand holds the dropper and rests on the head.
9. As the lower lid is pulled down the solution is applied to this area (Picture 1).



Picture 1

NEONATAL SERVICES DIVISION

Approved by Quality & Patient Care Committee
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10. Place a finger on the upper eye lid and gently massage.

NOTE: Excess eye drops on the infant's skin should be wiped away with cotton wool ball to avoid potential skin irritation

11. Settle infant appropriately after administering eye-drops.
12. Dispose gloves and perform hand hygiene.
13. Sign the prescription chart after administration.

6. DOCUMENTATION

- eMR nursing notes
- Medication chart
- Neonatal observation chart
- NICUS database

7. EDUCATIONAL NOTES

- Consent is required for Cyclomydril eye drops as it is not currently TGA approved.

8. RELATED POLICIES/PROCEDURES/CLINICAL PRACTICE LOP

- Eye – Preparing the neonate for eye examination

9. RISK RATING

- Low

10. NATIONAL STANDARD

- Standard 1 Clinical Governance
- Standard 4 Medication Safety
- Standard 5 Comprehensive Care

11. ABBREVIATIONS AND DEFINITIONS OF TERMS

NCC	Newborn Care Centre	RN/RM	Registered Nurse / Registered Midwife
LOP	Local Operations Procedure	TGA	Therapeutic Goods Administration

12. REFERENCES

- The Royal Childrens' Hospital, Melbourne. Clinical Guidelines.
http://www.rch.org.au/rchcpg/index.cfm?doc_id=9502
- Hockenberry M, Wilson D, Winkelstein M, Kline N. Wong's Nursing Care of Infants and Children. 7th Edition. Mosby, USA. (2003).
- Image: www.retinaphysicians.com/vrs-postop-vitreo.htm

13. AUTHOR

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