LeadingAge Midwest
Illinois · Iowa · Missouri

Ophthalmic Medication Resource

This resource can serve as a guide to standard practice related to ophthalmic medication use. The table below includes drug specific standards for direct care staff while administering medications.

Ophthalmic Medication Administration:

- Ensure rights of medication administration are followed.
- The resident/tenant should be in a setting conducive to administering ophthalmic medication such as their room.
- If medications are set down in a resident's environment, they must be placed on a barrier.
- Perform hand hygiene and don gloves.
- Have the resident/tenant tilt head back slightly. The lower eye lid must be pulled down gently to create a small pocket for the medication to be administered into.
- Hold the dropper above the eye with the tip down. The resident/tenant should look up and away from the dropper. Squeeze out a drop. If the eye drop misses the eye, it must be attempted again.
- The resident/tenant shall be instructed to keep their eyes closed for 1-2 minutes without blinking or squinting. Light pressure shall be placed on the lacrimal duct (or inner corner of the eye) for 1 minute to prevent the medication from entering the tear duct as this has the potential to cause systemic effects.
- Doff gloves and complete hand hygiene.
- Document administration.

General Ophthalmic Medication Guidelines:

- Eye drops must be stored at room temperature, away from heat, light and moisture. Each resident's eye drop bottle should not touch other residents to prevent potential cross-contamination.
- The lid shall be maintained tightly on the bottle when not in use.
- Eye drops shall not be frozen.
- If the medication changes colors or has particles present it should be discarded.
- Medications can be maintained until the expiration date.
- If a resident/tenant uses contacts, they should not be put in until 15 minutes after administration of the eye drop as soft contact lenses will absorb medication. Contacts are not recommended to be used during an active infection or inflammation.
- When administering more than one drop of a particular ophthalmic medication a minimum of 5 minutes between drops shall be maintained.
- When administering different ophthalmic medications, it is best to wait at least 10 minutes between the medications.

Reference: (2024; Jun. 4) *Find Drugs and Conditions*. https://www.drugs.com.

LeadingAge Midwest
Illinois · Iowa · Missouri

Ophthalmic Medication Special Instructions for Use

Medication Name	Indications for Use	Special Instructions
Alphagan; brimonidine	Glaucoma, ocular hypertension	Shake well before use.
Azopt; brinzalomide	Glaucoma, ocular hypertension	Shake well before use.
Besivance	Fluoroquinolone antibiotic	Shake once before use.
Ciprofloxacin; Ciloxan; Ofloxacin; Ocuflox	Fluoroquinolone antibiotic; Corneal Ulcer	If used for corneal ulcer you may notice a whitish buildup on the ulcer. This means the medication is working and is not harmful.
Combigan (combination of brimonidine and timolol); Timolol Ophthalmic	Glaucoma, ocular hypertension	None
Dexamethasone Ophthalmic	Steroid to reduce inflammation.	Discard 30 days after opening. Shake well before use.
Dorzolamide; Trusopt	Glaucoma	Discard 30 days after opening.
Durezol	Steroid to reduce pain and inflammation.	None
Fluorometholone	Steroid to reduce inflammation caused by surgery or injury.	Shake well before use.
Ilevro	NSAID to reduce inflammation and pain following cataract surgery.	Shake well before use.
Ketorolac; Acular; Acuvail	NSAID to reduce eye itching from seasonal allergies or reduce swelling and pain after surgery.	None
Latanoprost; Xalatan	Glaucoma	Unopened bottles must be stored in the refrigerator. Discard 6 weeks after opening.
Levobunolol; Betagan	Glaucoma	None
Lotemax	Corticosteroid to treat swelling and inflammation.	Shake vigorously before use and discard 30 days after opening. (Lotemax SM – shake once and follow expiration date).
Lumigan; bimatoprost	Glaucoma	None
Moxifloxacin; Vigamox	Antibiotic	Discard 4 weeks after opening.
Pazeo; Pataday; olopatadine	Antihistamine for itchy, watery eyes.	None
Polymixin B and Trimethoprim; Tobramycin	Antibiotic	None
Prednisolone; Pred Forte; Pred Mild	Steroid to treat eye inflammation.	Shake well before use.
Simbrinza (combination of brimonidine and brinzolamide); Travatan	Glaucoma; Ocular hypertension	None

Reference: (2024; Jun. 4) *Find Drugs and Conditions*. https://www.drugs.com.