



HEALTH HOLDING

HAFER ALBATIN HEALTH  
CLUSTER  
MATERNITY AND  
CHILDREN HOSPITAL

<b>Department:</b>	Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)		
<b>Document:</b>	Departmental Policy and Procedure		
<b>Title:</b>	Eye Care of the Newborn		
<b>Applies To:</b>	All NICU Staff		
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## 1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To clean the eye of discharge and crusts.
- 1.2 To prevent further infection.
- 1.3 To soothe eye irritation.

## 2. DEFINITIONS:

- 2.1 **Eye Care of the Newborn:** provide treatment to infection of the eye as in ophthalmia neonatorum.

## 3. POLICY:

- 3.1 Infected newborn will receive treatment against ophthalmia neonatorum.
- 3.2 The procedure is performed by a Registered experience nurse in the neonatal unit.
- 3.3 The hands should be washed thoroughly prior to the procedure.

## 4. PROCEDURE:

- 4.1 Check the written physician's order.
- 4.2 Identify the patient by two identifiers (four names for Saudi/ complete name for Non-Saudi and medical record number).
- 4.3 Know the ten (10) rights of medication administration.
- 4.4 Place the infants in a supine position and support the head with one hand.
- 4.5 For instilling ointments:
  - 4.5.1 Gently pull down the lower eyelid and apply a row of ointment along the lower lid without touching the eyelid with the tube.
  - 4.5.2 Close the eyelid gently and allow the ointment to coat the eye.
  - 4.5.3 Wipe off the excess ointment with a cotton ball.
- 4.6 For instilling drops:
  - 4.6.1 Gently pull down the lower eyelid with the other hand by placing gentle pressure downward below the eyelashes exposing the conjunctival sac.
  - 4.6.2 Position the dropper so that the drug will fall into the lower eyelid, never directly on the eye.
  - 4.6.3 Apply pressure to the inner canthus to prevent drainage into the nasopharynx and back of the throat. This also prevents systemic absorption of the medication.
- 4.7 Repeat the procedure with the other eye.
- 4.8 For regular cleaning use sterile cotton balls and sterile water and clean from inner canthus of eye using a single stroke.
- 4.9 Observe for the following:
  - 4.9.1 Redness
  - 4.9.2 Swelling
  - 4.9.3 Discharge
- 4.10 Use a new tube of ointment for each infant.
- 4.11 Label the tube with name of infant, date and time of opening and the expiry date.

**5. MATERIAL AND EQUIPMENT:**

- 5.1 Ophthalmic ointment or drops as ordered.
- 5.2 Cotton balls.

**6 RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- 6.1 Physician
- 6.2 Nurse

**7 APPENDICES:**

N/A

**8 REFERENCES**

- 8.1 MOH SNR NICU 007
- 8.2 CBAHI Resources 3rd Edition

**9 APPROVALS**

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