

## F-100 Eye Medications - Drops and Ointments

### Purpose

Ensure the safe and correct administration of eye medications.

### Applies To

Registered Nurses

Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurses

Other (*Identify*): \_\_\_\_\_

### Equipment/Supplies

- Medication bottle with sterile eye dropper or ointment tube.
- Cotton ball or facial tissue.
- Disposable gloves.
- Washbasin and washcloth, if the client has eye drainage.
- Eye patch and tape, if ordered by physician.

### Procedure

1. Wash hands. Refer to the Hand Washing procedure.
2. Don clean gloves.
3. Position the client in supine position or in a chair with head tilted back, if appropriate.
4. If the client has eye drainage, wash the eye(s) before beginning the procedure.
  - a. Fill washbasin with warm water.
  - b. Apply damp washcloth over eye and let soak several minutes to loosen any drainage.
  - c. Remove drainage by wiping from inner to outer canthus.
5. Hold cotton ball or clean tissue in non-dominant hand just below the client's Lower eyelid on the cheekbone.
6. Gently press downward against the bony orbit with thumb or forefinger.
7. Instruct the client to look up at ceiling. *This reduces stimulation of blink reflex.*
8. Eye drops:
  - a. Hold medication bottle in dominant hand and position dropper approximately 1/2 to 3/4 inches above the conjunctival sac while resting Hand on the client's forehead.

- b. Instill the prescribed number of drops into the conjunctival sac. *This Ensures the medication is spread evenly across the eye.*
  - c. Have the client gently close eyes.
9. Eye ointments:
- a. Hold ointment tube above conjunctiva while resting hand on the client's Forehead.
  - b. Apply thin stream of ointment evenly along the inside edge of the lower Eyelid on the conjunctiva. Apply ointment from the center outward.
  - c. Have the client look down and apply a thin stream of ointment along the Upper lid margin on the inner conjunctiva.
  - d. Have the client close eye. If not contraindicated, have the client rub the Eyelid lightly with a cotton ball in a circular motion.
10. Wipe any excess solution or ointment with cotton ball or tissue from center of Eye outward.
11. If the client requires an eye patch, replace with clean eye patch and secure with Tape. Ensure that entire eye is covered and avoid pressure to eye.
12. Remove gloves and dispose of supplies according to the Agency Waste Disposal Policy.

**Documentation Guidelines**

Document in the clinical record:

- 1. Appearance of eye including any signs of redness, swelling, or drainage.
- 2. Medication applied location, dose and patient tolerance.
- 3. Instructions given to client/caregiver.
- 4. Physician notification and order changes as appropriate.

**Related Procedures**

None.

**Policy History**

Approval Date	11/1/2009
Approved By	Anne Tyson, Herman Pippin, Sandra Hill
Revision Date	12/31/2009
Approved by	Anne Tyson, Herman Pippin, Sandra Hill
Revision Date	
Approved by	
Revision Date	
Approved by	