

**PROCEDURE FOR: Eye Prophylaxis: Administration of**

- POLICIES:**
1. All infants will receive prophylaxis for ophthalmia neonatorum as soon after birth as the infant's condition warrants and within one hour, per State of Connecticut Statute.
  2. If infant's eyes are fused, this prophylactic treatment is not done.
  3. Connecticut State law allows for no refusal or waiver, unless infant's eyes are fused.

**EQUIPMENT:** Erythromycin Ophthalmic Ointment

**PROCEDURE:**

| <u>ACTION</u>   | <u>POINTS OF EMPHASIS</u>                                  |
|---|--|
| 1. Place "ribbon" of erythromycin ointment approximately 1 cm in length in each eye in the lower conjunctival sacs. | 1. "Dose" depends on the length of the palpebral fissures. |
| 2. Gently massage the eyelids to help spread the ointment.  | 2. Massaging is not recommended for premature infants.     |
| 3. Using sterile gauze or cotton ball, wipe excess ointment away after 1 minute.                                    | 3. Do not flush the eyes.                                  |

**APPROVAL:** Nursing Standards Committee

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** 1/84

**REVISION DATES:** 1/94, 3/99, 12/08, 7/09

**REVIEWED DATES:** 12/07