



Drug Shortage

Erythromycin 5 mg/g ophthalmic ointment

The issue: Erythromycin 5 mg/g ophthalmic ointment 1 g and 3.5 g tubes is single source from Pharmascience who have indicated this week that the drug is on backorder until at least the end of January 2019.

NH stock status: NH has approximately three weeks of inventory and we will stock out before supplies are made available unless we implement conservation measures immediately.

Practice Implications:

- **Use therapeutic alternatives to conserve existing erythromycin ophthalmic ointment for neonatal ophthalmia, for which there are no alternatives.**
- Existing stock needs to be reserved for Obstetrics. All other patient care areas should be using alternative antibiotic products.
- Pharmacy will be removing erythromycin ophthalmic ointment from non-Obstetric areas.

Alternatives*: Ophthalmic antibiotic products should be used based on its indication for use and patient’s clinical condition. Possible alternatives include:

- Ciprofloxacin 0.3 % Ophthalmic Drops - 5 mL
- Ciprofloxacin 0.3 % Ophthalmic Ointment 3.5 g
- Moxifloxacin 0.5% Ophthalmic Drops - 3 mL
- Polysporin® eye drops
- Tobramycin 0.3 % Ophthalmic Ointment - 3.5 g
- Tobramycin 0.3 % Ophthalmic Drops - 5 mL

Note: not all alternatives are stocked at all NH facilities. Contact your local hospital pharmacy for further information.

December 20, 2018 For the information of physicians, nurses and pharmacists PLEASE POST	Drug Shortage	✓	For further information contact: NH Medication Use Management Pharmacists: Gordon Harper (778-349-3216) Jessica Brecknock (250-267-5940) mumpharmacist@northernhealth.ca
	Formulary change		
	Best Practice		
	Recall		
	Label Change		