



Drug Shortage

Erythromycin 5 mg/g ophthalmic ointment

The issue: Erythromycin 5 mg/g ophthalmic ointment 1 g and 3.5 g tubes are currently in short supply from vendors with an estimated resupply date of mid January 2020.

NH stock status: NH has approximately three weeks of inventory for 3.5 g tubes and 6 weeks of inventory for 1 g tubes. 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.
- NH pharmacies should remove 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.

October 24, 2019 For the information of physicians, nurses and pharmacists PLEASE POST	Drug Shortage	✓	For further information contact: NH Medication Use Management Pharmacists: Jessica Brecknock (250-267-5940) Ryan Doerksen (778-349-5108) mumpharmacist@northernhealth.ca
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	Recall		
	Label Change		