



## ADULT MEDICATION GUIDELINE

# Chloramphenicol (Eye)

**Scope (Staff):** All WNHS Staff

**Scope (Area):** Obstetrics and Gynaecology

This document should be read in conjunction with the [Disclaimer](#).

### Quick Links

[Dose](#)

[Administration](#)

[Monitoring](#)

[Pregnancy and Breastfeeding](#)

### Restrictions

[Formulary: Restricted](#)

### Medication Class

Antibacterial (Eye)

### Presentation

**Eye Drop:** 0.5%

**Eye Ointment:** 1%

### Storage

#### Eye Drops:

- Refrigerate. Do not freeze. Store between 2 - 8°C until opened.
- On opening the drops may be stored at room temperature (below 25°C).
- Discard 4 weeks after opening.

#### Eye Ointment:

- Store at room temperature, below 25°C. Discard 4 weeks after opening.

### Dose

#### Bacterial Conjunctivitis

#### Eye Drops:

1 drop every 2 hours while awake for 1-2 days, then if there is improvement, 1 drop 4 times daily for up to 5 days.

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**Eye Ointment:**

May be used at night if drops are used during the day, or as a single agent 3 or 4 times daily.

## Administration

- Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water, sit or lie down.
- Remove the lid of the eye drop/ointment container and place on a clean surface, ensuring it is not facing down, to reduce the risk of contamination.
- Tilt the head back and look upwards.
- With one hand, gently pull down the lower eyelid to form a pouch.
- With the other hand, hold the eye drop/ointment container near the eyelid and do not let the tip of the bottle touch the eye, skin or lashes.

**Eye Drops:**

- Squeeze one drop into the eyelid pouch.
- Close the eye gently, and do not blink, rub or squeeze the eyelid.

**Eye Ointment:**

- Squeeze a small amount of the ointment (about 1 cm length) into the pouch.
- Blink several times to spread the ointment, then close the eye for 1-2 minutes.

## Pregnancy

**1<sup>st</sup> Trimester:** Safe to use.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Trimester:** Safe to use.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Trimester:** Safe to use.

## Breastfeeding

Safe to use.

## Comments

- Transient stinging or burning sensation in the eye.
- Transient blurred vision for up to 20 minutes, particularly after administration of eye ointment.









## Related Policies, Procedures & Guidelines

**WNHS Clinical Practice Guidelines:**[Antimicrobial Stewardship](#)[Endorsed Midwives Employed by Women and Newborn Health Service](#)**References**

Australian Medicines Handbook. Chloramphenicol. In: Australian Medicines Handbook [Internet]. Adelaide (South Australia): Australian Medicines Handbook; 2024 [cited 2024 June 18]. Available from: <https://amhonline.amh.net.au/>

AusDI. Chlorsig (Chloramphenicol). In: AusDI [Internet]. Telstra Health: AusDI; [cited 2024 June 18]. Available from: <https://ausdi-hcn-com-au.kelibresources.health.wa.gov.au/productInformation.hcn?file=p01797>

Australian Pharmaceutical Formulary and Handbook. Sansom LD, ed. 2024 [cited 2024 June 18] Available from: <https://apf-psa-org-au.kelibresources.health.wa.gov.au>

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