

**MEDICAL CARE - ADMINISTRATION OF EYE DROPS**

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1. **CONSIDERATION:**

Whilst the majority of medications are administered by mouth or injection there are other routes which may be more appropriate for certain substances which are indicated by particular medical conditions. Route of administration may also be affected by resident choice and suitability.

The same safeguards and principles of administration apply to preparations administered by gargle as to any other form of medication.

2. **EQUIPMENT:**

- Sterile swabs
- Sterile water
- Appropriate eye drops (checked against MAR)

3. **PROCEDURE:**

3.1 Explain the procedure to resident.

3.2 If any discharge from the eyes, remove any infected material and allow absorption of eye drops. See Procedure for Swabbing.

3.3 Check the following:

- Bottle label against MAR
- Which eye the drops are prescribed
- Expiry date on the bottle
- Date of opening

3.4 Assist resident into correct position with head tilted well back and supported.

3.5 Wash hands and dry well.

3.6 To absorb excess solution which may irritate surrounding skin, place a moist cotton wool swab on the lower lid against the lid margin.

3.7 Ask the resident to look up before instilling the drops. This allows the drops to be instilled into the outer side of the lower fornix to avoid corneal damage and discomfort. Instil drops without touching the eyelid or cornea but from no further away than one inch.

3.8 To ensure absorption, ask resident to close the eyes. Keep the moist cotton wool swab on the lower lid for a few minutes.

3.9 Make resident comfortable.

3.10 Remove and dispose of the equipment.

3.11 Wash and dry hands thoroughly.

3.12 Record the procedure on the MAR Chart. Monitor side effects and report abnormalities.