# Administration of Medicated Eye Drops Prior to Eye Examination for Nursing Staff in the Ophthalmology Department

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## Document Review History

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## Document Change History

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Appendix 1 Medication protocol
1.0 Introduction

Our Lady's Children’s Hospital Crumlin (OLCHC) is the largest children’s teaching hospital in Ireland. OLCHC is committed to the provision of safe quality care to the infants and children it cares for, against the backdrop of legislation and regulatory requirements.\(^1\)

OLCHC recognises the importance of medication safety management and has created processes and practices to minimise the risk to children by incorporating the ‘10 rights’ of medication management;

1. Right patient  
2. Right reason  
3. Right drug  
4. Right route  
5. Right time  
6. Right dose  
7. Right form  
8. Right action  
9. Right documentation  
10. Right response.  

NMBI have stated that ‘these standards for medicines management are authoritative statements developed and monitored and enforced by NMBI. These standards describe the responsibilities and conduct expected of Nurses and midwives in their involvement with medicines across all care settings’. NMBI (2015).\(^2\)

This SOP supports the administration of medicated eye drops with prescription prior eye examination in the Ophthalmology department by one nurse in the OPD. See appendix 1.

2.0 Definition of Standard Operating Procedure

The term ‘Standard Operating Procedure’ is a way of carrying out a particular course of action and includes operations, investigations, pharmaceutical treatment, examinations and any other treatment carried out. Nursing staff in the Ophthalmology department will administer eye medication to suitable infants and children in advance of eye examination by the consultant.

3.0 Applicable to

Nursing staff in the Ophthalmology department OPD.

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\(^1\) Health Information and Quality Authority (2012) National Standards for Safer Better Healthcare, HIQA, Cork, Ireland  
\(^2\) Standards for Medicine Management for Nurses and Midwives (Draft) https://www.nmbi.ie/nmbi/media/NMBI/standards-for-medicines-management.pdf
4.0 **Objectives of Standard Operating Procedure**

Nursing staff in the OPD Ophthalmology department will administer eye medication as a single checker and administered.

5.0 **Procedures**

- Medication is administered to the child by one registered nurse checking the child’s identity band and double checking identity with the parent/guardian. In the event that a parent is unavailable to be the second checker the double checking algorithm will apply.
- Medication is prescribed in the usual manner by the medical staff in the Healthcare Record using a stamp.
  - Cyclomydril (0.2% Cyclopentolate Hydrochloride and 1% Phenylephrine hydrochloride)
  - Proxymetacaine Hydrochloride 0.5%- Local anaesthetic
  - Cyclopentolate 0.5%- Term to 6 months
  - Cyclopentolate 1% infants and children over 6 months
  - Phenylephrine Hydrochloride 2.5%

6.0 **Implementation Plan**

This activity will be included in the education and training in the Ophthalmology department as part of orientation and induction training.

7.0 **Evaluation and Audit**

This process will be evaluated in the theatre department by the Clinical Nurse Facilitators.

8.0 **References**


## 9.0 Appendices

### Appendix 1 Medication protocol

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<tr>
<th>1. Department</th>
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<td>Ophthalmic OPD</td>
<td>June 2017</td>
<td>June 2019</td>
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### 4. Name and signature of author of this protocol

*Drugs & Therapeutics Group OLCHC*

*Signature*

### 6. Staff Inclusion criteria –

*All registered nursing staff who have received education and training.*

### 7. Exclusion circumstances (who will not be covered)

- All other clinical areas

### 8. Description of events/activity to be covered

- Medication is administered to the child by one registered nurse checking the child’s identity band and double checking identity with the parent/guardian. In the event that a parent is unavailable to be the second checker the double checking algorithm will apply.

- Medication is prescribed in the usual manner by the medical staff in the Healthcare Record using a stamp.

### 9. Names of medications included in this protocol

- Cyclopentolate (0.05% Hypromellose 250 mg), 1% Phenylephrine hydrochloride
- Proparacaine Hydrochloride 0.5% Local anaesthetic
- Cyclopentolate 0.5% – Tense to 6 months
- Cyclopentolate 1% infants and children over 6 months
- Phenylephrine Hydrochloride 2.5%

### 10. Do guidelines accompany this protocol? Please enclose for review

Yes see SOP on the single administration of eye drops in the Ophthalmic OPD

### 11. Will the use of this protocol improve the patient journey/quality of patient service? (Please give details)

Yes. This protocol will assist the child’s journey through the department ensuring eye medication is administered safely allowing the child to be ready for the eye examination in a timely manner.

### 12. Please include details of evidence to suggest this is best practice.

- Royal College of Nursing Patient Group Directions Guidance and Information for Nurses (RCN, 2006).
- Nursing Policy on Medication Management (2016)
- Standard Operating Procedure on the double checking single nurse administration of specific medication in the ED (2017)
- OLCHC Medication Policy (2017)

### 13. Non-Conformance

Non-compliance and/or an increase in medication incidents arising will be monitored using audit. This will be carried out on an annual basis to ensure that procedures are adhered to.

### 14. Authors

Flannu O’Neill, NPDU, Marie Keegan, CNSp Ophthalmology Department

### 15. Authorised by:

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*Based on Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (2015) Standards for Medicines Management for Nurses and Midwives, NMBS, Dublin, Ireland.*

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Ophthalmology Department