



Delegation and/or Medical Directive

Title: Eye Prophylaxis in the Newborn

Policy Number: 06-02

Approval Date: February 2019

Review Date: Annually

Review Due Date:

Sponsoring Person: Chief of Department of Paediatrics, QHC BGH

Does this policy include a delegation of a controlled act? Yes No

Orders:	Appendix Attached: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Title:
<p>The authorized Nurses in the Quinte Healthcare Corporation (QHC) may perform the Medical Directive provided the requirements, as listed in the directive, are met. If the appropriate physician or health care provider with ordering authority is not immediately available to provide the order, the nurse caring for the newborn infant at Quinte Healthcare may administer erythromycin ointment 0.5% to both eyes of the neonate.</p>	

Recipient Patients:	Appendix Attached: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Title:
<p>Newborn infant in the Quinte Healthcare Corporation (QHC).</p>	

Approving Physician(s)/ Authorizer(s):	Appendix Attached: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Title: Appendix 1: Designated Physician Authorization Sheet
<p>Ensure a signed copy of approvals is maintained with the Medical Directives on the unit, Medical Directive Manual (Patient Services), and Chief of Staff office.</p>	



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Authorized Implementers:	Appendix Attached: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Title: Appendix 2 Authorized Implementer Form Appendix 3: Self - Learning Package Appendix 4: Self Appraisal of Competency Statement for Authorized Staff
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All Quinte Healthcare nurses, who have:

1. Completed the Self - Learning Package or attended an education session and have reviewed the Medical Directive annually (*See Appendix 3 – “Self - Learning Package”*).
2. Completed the Self Appraisal of Competency Statement form and submitted to the manager, clinical educator or designate (*See Appendix 4 – “Self Appraisal of Competency Statement for Authorized Staff”*).

Indicators:	Appendix Attached: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Title: Appendix 3: Self - Learning Package
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- Erythromycin ointment is a recognized prophylaxis for gonococcal and chlamydial ophthalmia neonatorum.
- The administration of a prophylactic agent to the newborn infant’s eyes is legislated under Section 33 and Regulation 557 health Promotion and Protection Act, exemptions may be granted only if the criteria outlined in the legislation is met (*See Appendix 3 – “Self - Learning Package”* and policy 3.15.7 - Maternal/Child – Ophthalmia Neonatorum Prophylaxis).
- Erythromycin ointment should be instilled within one hour after delivery or as soon thereafter as is practicable (Regulation 557).

Contraindications:	Appendix Attached: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Title:
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Parent/legal guardian/substitute decision maker has requested an exemption and meets the criteria for exemption (Refer to Policy 3.15.7 - Maternal/Child – Ophthalmia Neonatorum Prophylaxis).

Consent:	Appendix Attached: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Title:
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The patient is registered at QHC.
 Parent/legal guardian/substitute decision has given verbal consent (Refer to Policy 3.15.7).



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Guidelines for Implementing the Order/Procedure:	Appendix Attached: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Title: Appendix 5: Implementing a Medical Directive
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The authorized nurse in the QHC must ensure:

- A patient-physician relationship will be established in the near future.
- If needed, initial resuscitation measures will be completed before implementing this medical directive.
- The patient has no contraindications for the implementation of the Medical Directive.

Documentation and Communication:	Appendix Attached: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Title: Appendix 6: Ophthalmia Neonatorum Prophylaxis Directive Order Set
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Following QHC documentation policy and CNO standards, the nurse will document the appropriate assessments, treatments, and patient responses and outcomes, and ensure the directive is documented on the Ophthalmia Neonatorum Prophylaxis Directive Order Set. Administration of this medication will be documented on the MAR.

Review and Quality Monitoring Guidelines	Appendix Attached: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Title: Appendix 4: Self Appraisal of Competency Statement for Authorized Staff
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The Designated Instructor (Clinical Educator or designate) will supervise the clinical component every 2 years, either on the Unit or at a designated education session.

Staff identifying any untoward or unintended outcomes arising from implementation of orders under this directive, or any issues identified with it will report these to the manager as soon as possible for appropriate disposition. This does not include untoward or unintended outcomes or issues that are possible clinical sequelae regardless of whether a directive or direct order is used.

Administrative Approvals:	Appendix Attached: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Title:
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Date of Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee Approval: October 2015

Date of Maternal/Child Care Program Advisory Committee Approval: February 21, 2019

Date of MAC Approval:

Ensure a signed copy of approval is maintained with the medical directive manual coordinator, and with the Chief of Staff office.

Chief of Staff

Chief Nursing Executive

Date

Date

References:

Canadian Paediatric Society (CPS) (2015). Preventing ophthalmia neonatorum [Position Statement].

Paediatrics and Child Health, 20 (2), p. 93 – 96. <http://www.cps.ca>

College of Nurses of Ontario. (2004). *Directives. [Practice Guideline: Revised 2014]*. Toronto, ON:

Author. www.cno.org

Evans, R. J., Evans, M. K., Brown, Y. M. & Orshan, S. A. (2010). *Canadian maternity, newborn and women's health nursing*. Philadelphia, PA: Wolters Kluwer | Lippincott Williams & Wilkins.

Health Protection and Promotion Act, R.S.O, Regulation 557 *Communicable Diseases*.

Mabry-Hernandez, I. & Oliverio-Hoffman, R. (2010). *Ocular prophylaxis for Gonococcal ophthalmia neonatorum*. U.S. Preventative Task Force [Recommendation Statement] AHRQ Publication No. 10-05146

Matejcek, A. & Goldman, R. D. (2013). Treatment and Prevention of ophthalmia neonatorum. *Canadian Family Physician* 59. P. 1187 – 1190

Schaller, U. C. & Klauss, V. (2001). *Is Credé's prophylaxis for ophthalmia neonatorum still valid?* [Bulletin of the World Health Organization] Ref. No. 00-1032

Appendices:

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| Appendix 1: | Designated Physician Authorization Sheet |
| Appendix 2: | Authorized Implementer Form |
| Appendix 3: | Self – Learning Package |
| Appendix 4: | Self – Appraisal of Competency Statement for Authorized Staff |
| Appendix 5: | Implementing a Medical Directive |
| Appendix 6: | Ophthalmia Neonatorum Prophylaxis Directive Order Set |