**Erythromycin Eye Ointment Opt-Out Form**

Currently, erythromycin eye ointment is administered to a baby’s eyes shortly after birth to reduce the risk of eye infection from gonorrhea or chlamydia, as mandated by the Health Protection and Promotion Act (HPPA). However, effective January 2019, the HPPA is allowing the mother and/or parent of the newborn to opt-out, in writing, of this routine treatment because:

1. Women now receive routine screening in pregnancy for chlamydia and gonorrhea, and are treated if the infections are present.
2. The ointment may cause mild eye irritation in some infants, and may interfere with mother-infant bonding.
3. Erythromycin may no longer be an effective antibiotic at preventing eye infection.

**The Canadian Paediatric Society Guidelines do not support routine antibiotic eye ointment treatment for all newborns.**

Regardless of whether erythromycin ointment is applied or not, all infants should be monitored for eye discharge and swelling in the days to weeks after birth and families should immediately seek medical attention if this is present.

For more information please follow the link below:

<http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/common/legislation/opth_neo/default.aspx>

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, have read the above information, pertaining to the following:

* The reason erythromycin ointment is given to newborn infants in Ontario
* The benefits and risks of treatment
* The importance of monitoring all newborn infants for signs of eye infection

I have received the Georgian Bay General Hospital erythromycin fact sheet, I do not believe I have been at high risk of contracting chlamydia or gonorrhea and have received my prenatal screening and I **do not want** the erythromycin eye ointment treatment to be given when my baby (babies) are born at Georgian Bay General Hospital.

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Healthcare Provider Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Healthcare Provider Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**References**

Moore, D.L., & MacDonald, N.E. (2018, February 28). Preventing ophthalmia neonatorum. *Canadian Paediatric Society.* Retrieved from <https://www.cps.ca/en/documents/position/ophthalmia-neonatorum>

Ontario. (1990). Health protection and promotion act, R.S.O. Retrieved from https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90h07