

NMCP Guidelines for use of Topical Ophthalmic Solutions in Patient Care Areas

The NMCP Pharmacy and Therapeutics committee has established the following guidelines for the use of sterile topical ophthalmic solutions when individual containers will be used for multiple patients:

- Expiration dates are checked on each bottle prior to use. This standard is maintained for all clinic medications.
- **All bottles must be discarded 28 days after initial use.**
- Using a black felt-tip marker, label the bottle upon initial entry with **the expiration date which should be (the "beyond use date")**. **This date is 28 days after initial use.**
A separate label may also be used to indicate the opened date and the 28 day beyond use expiration date as long as it does not obscure the name of the medication, the drug concentration or any other critical information.
- When administering the drops, the patient's identity is confirmed per command protocols for administering medications.
- **Always remember the bottle tip and the inside of the cap as well as the solution are sterile.**
- Do not allow the tip of the dropper bottle to touch anything. Drops should be allowed to fall in the eye from a reasonable height above the patient.
- Do not allow the sterile cap of the bottle to be placed down on any surface or allow the inside of the cap to be touched.
- If a bottle becomes contaminated, it must be thrown away immediately.
- Only personnel that are trained on the appropriate administration of topical ophthalmic preparations should administer these medications (with overall supervision of credentialed providers).

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