

MULTI-USE OINTMENTS, CREAMS, LOTIONS

The NMCP Pharmacy and Therapeutics and Infection Control Committees have established the following guidelines for the use of topical ointments, lubricants, creams, and lotions when individual containers will be used for multiple patients:

- Expiration dates are checked on each item prior to use. This standard is maintained for all medications.
- Unit-dose containers for single-patient use are preferable to multi-dose containers used for multiple patients whenever feasible.
- Items that are packaged in multi-dose containers must be administered in such a manner as to avoid cross-contamination.
- Any product to be used on more than one patient must be transferred onto a clean or sterile surface/container.
- NEVER exceed the manufacturer's expiration date. Any item should be immediately discarded if visible or suspected contamination has occurred.
- Products dedicated to a single patient must be discarded when discontinued by the provider.

For Ophthalmic solutions, please reference NMCP Guidelines for use of Topical Ophthalmic Solutions.