

Formulary of Topical Antimicrobial Preparations in Ophthalmology

Antibacterial	Available as	Contains	Formulary status	Antibiotic Advisory Group comments
<i>Amikacin</i>	Eye drops 1% preservative-free		Not specifically mentioned in web BNF	Restricted - on microbiological advice for resistant infection Not commercially available, do not prescribe on FP10 prescription. Multidose preservative-free bottles have in use shelf life of 24 hours. Requires refrigerated storage
<i>Azithromycin</i>	Eye drops 1.5% preservative-free		Restricted - Consultant ophthalmologists for the treatment of chlamydial infections only	For chlamydial infection only, bd for 3 days.
<i>Cefuroxime</i>	Eye drops 5% preservative-free		Not specifically mentioned in web BNF	Restricted – second line, if penicillin (preserved with phenylmercuric nitrate) inappropriate and in cases of preservative allergy or ocular surface disorders Only to be used when preservative-free eye drops required and commercially available preservative-free eye drops are not appropriate. Do not use in cases of proven cephalosporin allergy or in patients who have had an anaphylactic reaction to penicillin. Not commercially available, do not prescribe on FP10 prescription. Seek microbiology advice for alternative on discharge from hospital where appropriate. Multidose preservative-free bottles have in use shelf life of 24 hours. Requires refrigerated storage.
<i>Ceftazidime</i>	Eye drops 5% preservative-free		Not specifically mentioned in web BNF	On microbiological advice for resistant infection. Do not use in cases of proven cephalosporin allergy or in patients who have had an anaphylactic reaction to penicillin. Not commercially available, do not prescribe on FP10 prescription. Multidose preservative-free bottles have in use shelf life of 24 hours. Requires refrigerated storage.
<i>Chloramphenicol</i>	Eye drops 0.5% Unit dose eye drops 0.5% (preservative-free) Eye Ointment 1%	Preservatives: Phenylmercuric nitrate, borax, boric acid Some brands contain wool fat derivatives	On formulary	Requires refrigerated storage until opened, then stable at room temperature for 28 days. Available OTC for the treatment of acute bacterial conjunctivitis Requires refrigerated storage until opened, then stable at room temperature for 28 days. Available OTC for the treatment of acute bacterial conjunctivitis

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Chlorhexidine	Eye drops 0.02%		<i>Not specifically mentioned in web BNF</i>	<i>For the treatment of acanthamoeba keratitis (see guideline for the treatment of acanthamoeba keratitis). Not commercially available, do not prescribe on FP10 prescription.</i>
Ciprofloxacin	Eye drops 0.3% Eye ointment 0.3% (preservative-free)	Preservative: Benzalkonium chloride	Restricted Pseudomonas aeruginosa infection	For the treatment of bacterial keratitis especially in cases of Pseudomonas infection. Recommended alternative to preservative-free eye drops for the treatment of bacterial keratitis following bacterial sensitivity testing.
Fusidic Acid	Eye drops 1%	Preservative: Benzalkonium chloride	Restricted Second line for conjunctivitis	Second line antibiotic for the treatment of conjunctivitis in patients intolerant of chloramphenicol
Gentamicin	Eye drops 0.3% <i>Eye drops 1.5% preservative-free</i>	Preservative: Benzalkonium chloride	On formulary <i>Restricted 1.5% eye drops restricted for use in corneal abscess only</i>	<i>For the treatment of bacterial keratitis. Not commercially available, do not prescribe on FP10 prescription. Multidose preservative-free bottles have in use shelf life of 24 hours.</i>
Levofloxacin	Eye drops 0.5% unit dose (preservative-free)		Restricted Consultant ophthalmologists in patients undergoing surgical procedures/intravitreal injections who are allergic to chloramphenicol	<i>Consultant Ophthalmologists in patients undergoing surgical procedures who are allergic to chloramphenicol Consultant Ophthalmologists in patients undergoing intravitreal injections who are allergic to chloramphenicol and allergic to/intolerant of preservatives</i>
Ofloxacin	Eye drops 0.3%	Preservative: Benzalkonium chloride	Restricted Not to be used for conjunctivitis	For the treatment of bacterial keratitis
Penicillin	<i>Eye drops 5,000 units/ml</i>	<i>Preservative: Phenylmercuric nitrate</i>	<i>Not specifically mentioned in web BNF</i>	<i>Not commercially available, do not prescribe on FP10 prescription. Requires refrigerated storage. Do not use in penicillin allergy.</i>
Polyhexamethylene-biguanide (PHMB)	Eye drops 0.02%		<i>Not specifically mentioned in web BNF</i>	<i>Not commercially available, do not prescribe on FP10 prescription. For the treatment of Acanthamoeba keratitis (see guideline for the treatment of Acanthamoeba keratitis).</i>
Propamidine Isetionate	Eye drops 0.1%	Preservative: Benzalkonium chloride	Restricted Acanthamoeba keratitis infection	For the treatment of Acanthamoeba keratitis (see guideline for the treatment of Acanthamoeba keratitis).

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<i>Vancomycin</i>	Eye drops 5%		Not specifically mentioned in web BNF	Restricted - on microbiological advice for resistant infection. Not commercially available, do not prescribe on FP10 prescription. Multidose preservative-free bottles have in use shelf life of 24 hours. Requires refrigerated storage.
Antifungal	Available as	Contains	Formulary status	Comments
<i>Amphotericin</i>	Eye drops 0.15% preservative-free		Mentioned in web BNF under 11.8 Miscellaneous ophthalmic preparations - DTC formulary decision - amphotericin eye drops	Not commercially available, do not prescribe on FP10 prescription. Requires refrigerated storage, shelf life 7 days, in use shelf life of 24 hours. Use in accordance with fungal keratitis guideline (insert hyperlink)
Clotrimazole	Eye drops 1% preservative-free	Arachis Oil		Avoid in peanut allergy. Not commercially available, do not prescribe on FP10 prescription. Requires refrigerated storage, in use shelf life of 28 days as oily eye drop.
<i>Voriconazole</i>	Eye drops 1% preservative-free		Not specifically mentioned in web BNF	Not commercially available, do not prescribe on FP10 prescription. Requires refrigerated storage, in use shelf life of 24 hours. Use in accordance with fungal keratitis guideline (insert hyperlink)
Antiviral	Available as:	Contains:	Formulary status	Comments
Aciclovir	Eye ointment 3% (preservative-free)		On formulary	First line antiviral
Ganciclovir	Ophthalmic Gel 0.15%	Preservative: Benzalkonium chloride	Restricted On microbiological advice only	Second line antiviral for patients non-responsive to / intolerant of aciclovir
<i>Trifluorothymidine</i>	Eye drops 1%	<i>Preservative: Benzalkonium chloride</i>	<i>Not included</i>	<i>Not commercially available, do not prescribe on FP10 prescription. Requires refrigerated storage</i>

Products stocked are emboldened

Unlicensed products are italicised

Drugs marked in **red** contain penicillin and are contra-indicated in penicillin allergy; drugs marked in **orange** should be used with caution in penicillin allergy and avoided if there is any history of anaphylaxis to penicillin; drugs marked in **green** are safe in penicillin allergy

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