### Application of Eye Ointment

**Purpose**
The purpose of this procedure is to provide guidelines for the instillation of eye ointment to treat eye infections and to soothe or lubricate the eye.

**Preparation**
1. Review the resident’s care plan to assess for any special needs of the resident.
2. Assemble the equipment and supplies as needed.

**General Guidelines**
1. Allow the resident as much privacy as possible. (may not administer in public area)
2. Should both eyes require ointment, wash and dry your hands thoroughly before treating each eye.
3. To steady the ointment tube during the application process, rest your hand on the bridge of the resident’s nose or on his/her forehead.
4. When administering two or more different eye ointments allow five minutes between each application.
5. Do not force the procedure. Take your time and be gentle with the resident.

**Equipment and Supplies**
The following equipment and supplies will be necessary when performing this procedure.
1. Ointment (as prescribed);
2. Gauze pads;
3. Personal protective equipment (e.g., gowns, gloves, mask, etc., as needed); and
4. Other as may be necessary or appropriate.

**Steps in the Procedure**
1. Place the equipment on the bedside stand or overbed table. Arrange the supplies so they can be easily reached.
2. Wash and dry your hands thoroughly.
3. Put on gloves.
4. If the resident is sitting up, tilt his/her head backward slightly.
5. If the resident is bedfast, position the resident’s head on the pillow and tilt the head backward slightly.
6. Gently pull the lower eyelid down. Instruct the resident to look up.
7. Apply a thin line of ointment along the surface of the retracted lower lid. *(Note: Do not let the tip of the ointment tube touch the eye or eyelid.)*
8. Instruct the resident to close his/her eyelid and rotate his/her eyeball to allow for even distribution of the ointment. Instruct the resident not to blink or squeeze the eyelids shut, as this will force the medication out of the eye.
9. Wipe off the tip of the ointment tube with a clean gauze pad and replace cap.
10. Gently wipe off excess ointment in the eye area with a clean gauze pad.
11. Discard used gauze pads into designated container.
12. If the resident complains of pain, cease the procedure and summon the nurse supervisor.
13. Remove gloves and discard into designated container. Wash and dry your hands thoroughly.
14. Clean your equipment and return it to its designated storage area (i.e., bedside stand, bathroom, etc.).
15. Discard disposable equipment and supplies in designated containers.
16. Clean the overbed table and return it to its proper position.
### Steps in the Procedure (continued)

17. Lower the bed into lowest position and place the siderails and the head of the bed in the appropriate position **as indicated in the resident’s plan of care**.
18. Reposition the bed covers. Make the resident comfortable.
19. Place the call light within easy reach of the resident.
20. Wash and dry your hands thoroughly.
21. If the resident desires, return the door and curtains to the open position and if visitors are waiting tell them they may now enter the room.

### Documentation

The following information should be recorded in the resident’s medical record:

1. The date and time the eye ointment was administered.
2. The name and title of the individual(s) who administered the eye ointment.
3. The type of ointment administered.
4. All assessment data obtained concerning the resident’s eye.
5. How the resident tolerated the procedure.
6. If the resident refused the treatment, the reason(s) why and the intervention taken.
7. The signature and title of the person recording the data.

### Reporting

1. Notify the supervisor if the resident refuses the care.
2. Report other information in accordance with facility policy and professional standards of practice.

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<tr>
<th>MDS (RAPs)</th>
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| Procedure Revised | Date:__________  
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