

# CRITICAL CARE PROTOCOL FOR OPHTHALMIC CARE IN COVID RESPONSE

**EQUIPMENT NEEDED:** A bright pen torch

## ON ADMISSION

- Assess and document eyelid position

## DURING ADMISSION

- Assessment to occur daily unless stated otherwise in protocol; record frequency in care protocol

## Notes:

1. Signs of infection include redness, discharge, lid or conjunctival swelling and / or corneal clouding.
2. Tape eye or apply eye cover during open oropharyngeal suctioning if patient known to have active respiratory infection.
3. Do not withdraw the suction catheter across patient's face after suctioning.
4. Taping must be changed once daily.
5. To refer bleep 1625 or call consultant via switchboard



## Eye is able to be fully closed:

- Check eye and clean periocular skin with sterile gauze and sterile water daily
- If eye becomes mildly red and the cornea has no white lines/ deposits, start Xailin Night ointment 6hourly

## Conjunctiva / sclera exposed (white of eye):

- Check eye every 8 hours
- Clean periocular skin with sterile gauze and sterile water daily
- Increase frequency of application of **Xailin night ointment to 4 hourly** to each eye by day.

## Cornea exposed, showing iris and / or pupil:

- Check eye every 4 hours
- Xailin night ointment 2-hourly** and replace one dose with **Chloramphenicol 1% eye ointment ON.**
- Horizontal eye taping
- Clean periocular skin with daily

## If the conjunctiva is red and / or there is discharge:

1. Inform ICU doctor
2. Doctor to prescribe **Chloramphenicol 1% eye ointment 4-hourly** to both eyes (use a separate tube for each eye)
3. **Stop Xailin night eye ointment**
4. Increase frequency of eye cleaning to 2-hourly
5. Refer if not settling at 48 hours

## If the cornea has a white line and / or white spots on the surface:

1. Inform ICU doctor
2. Refer

## Care of the prone patient:

- Apply **Xailin ointment once** to each eye for each period of time the patient is prone
- Horizontal eye taping
- Overlay gauze and tape gauze to skin

## Horizontal eye lid taping:

Apply ointment, close eye and apply Transpore plastic tape from the inner corner to outer corner of the eye in a horizontal direction so that it extends beyond the width of the eyebrow. Check that the eyelid is fully closed.

