

Infection Prevention and Control in Ophthalmic Care Settings

Standard Precautions are required in the care of all patients at all times

- Hand hygiene
 - Perform before and after all patient encounters, including instillation of eye medication
 - Use soap and warm water; rub for at least 15 seconds or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer and rub hands until dry
- Personal protective equipment
 - **Gloves** for contact with mucous membranes (including eyes), non-intact skin if the patient exhibits sign of infection or when contact with blood or body fluids is possible
 - **Mask and face shield or eye protection** when splashing or spraying of blood or body fluids is possible

Patient Examination Area

- Designate specific examination rooms for patients presenting with eye infections, if possible
- Clean and disinfect potentially contaminated surfaces (per manufacturer instructions for application and contact time) after the patient is discharged
 - Including exam chair, chin rest, head rim and hand grips

Equipment and Instruments

- Use disposable examination materials when possible
- Reusable instruments used for exams that touch mucous membranes of the eye should be subjected to high-level disinfection or sterilization
 - Instruments include, but are not limited to, slit-lamps, tonometers, contact diagnostic and treatment lenses
- All surgical instruments must be properly sterilized after each use

Medication

- Single-use medication vials should be used when possible. If multi-use eye drop vials are used, the vial must not have contact with the patient. If the bottle does contact the patient's eye it must be discarded immediately.
- Dispose of swabs and tissues used in the instillation of eye drops immediately

Dressings

- Dispose of soiled dressings immediately after dressing change

