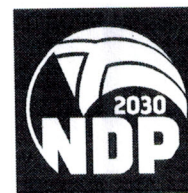




health

Department:
Health
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Reference: 2023/06/01/EDP/01

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NOTICE: OUT OF STOCK OF EYE DROPS SODIUM CROMOGLYCATE 2%

The Primary Health Care Standard Treatment Guidelines (STGs) and Essential Medicines List (EML) currently recommends the use of sodium cromoglycate 2% eye drops as second-line therapy for the treatment of allergic conjunctivitis in adult patients and in children from 2 years of age. The current supplier of sodium cromoglycate 2% is unable to meet its contractual obligation, with stock expected to be available from October/November 2023.

It is recommended that Olopatadine 1mg/ml (0.1%) Eye Drops be used as a therapeutic alternative for this indication in the interim, until the supply challenge is resolved.

Refer to the Primary Healthcare STGs and EML, 2020: Section 18.1.1 CONJUNCTIVITIS, ALLERGIC for step-wise medicine treatment.

Dose and directions for use: Comparative dosing and guidance of the two formulations included below. Note that olopatadine is recommended from 3 years of age.

| PRIMARY HEALTH CARE LEVEL STG CHP 18: EYE | |
|---|---|
| <p>CURRENT STG RECOMMENDATION:</p> <p>If no response within 7 days to the recommended first line therapies or history of recurrent (seasonal)/chronic allergic conjunctivitis, change to</p> <p><u>SODIUM CROMOGLYCATE 2% EYE DROPS</u> <u>Adults and children from 2 years of age:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sodium cromoglycate, 2% eye drops, instil 1 drop 6 hourly (Doctor initiated).¹ <p>REFERRAL No response to treatment. Persons wearing contact lenses. Children < 2 years of age.</p> | <p>TEMPORARY UPDATE TO THE STG:</p> <p>If no response within 7 days to the recommended first line therapies or history of recurrent (seasonal)/chronic allergic conjunctivitis, change to</p> <p><u>OLOPATADINE 0.1% EYE Drops</u> <u>Adults and children from 3 years of age:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Olopatadine, 0.1% eye drops, instil 1 drop 12 hourly (Doctor initiated).² <p>REFERRAL No response to treatment. Persons wearing contact lenses. Children < 3 years of age.</p> |

Note: These recommendations are provided as an interim measure and the National Department of Health will advise when the supply of sodium cromoglycate 2% is resumed.

Procurement details of recommended alternatives:

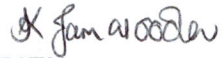
| NSN | Product | Supplier |
|-----------|--------------------------------------|----------|
| 181779872 | Olopatadine; 1mg/ml; Drop, Eye; 5 ml | iPharma |

¹ Lecrolyn (Sodium Cromoglycate) [package insert]. South Africa: iPharma (Pty) Ltd; 2001.

² Allodrop (Olopatadine) [package insert]. South Africa: iPharma (Pty) Ltd; 2022.

Provinces and Healthcare Facilities are requested to distribute and communicate this information in consultation with the Pharmaceutical and Therapeutics Committees. Kindly share with all healthcare professionals and relevant stakeholders.

Kind regards



MS K JAMALOODIEN
CHIEF DIRECTOR: SECTOR WIDE PROCUREMENT
DATE: 05/06/2023