

INTER-OFFICE MEMO



INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES

From : MRS JS MASINGA: DEPUTY DIRECTOR: INFECTION CONTROL:
INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES
Date : 10 March 2004
Subject : PREVENTION OF OCULAR INFECTIONS (PINK EYE)

INFECTION CONTROL GUIDELINES FOR THE PREVENTION OF EPIDEMIC OCULAR INFECTIONS

1. OBJECTIVE OF INFECTION CONTROL:

To prevent cross infection.

2. CAUSITIVE ORGANISM: ADENOVIRUS

(there are 47 different stereotypes)

3. MODE OF TRANSMISSION:

- **AIRBORNE**
Respiratory droplets / Dust.
 - **WATERBORNE**
Contaminated water e.g. swimming pool.
 - **DIRECT CONTACT:**
Contaminated towels, facecloths, glasses, goggles, linen and other items that comes into direct contact with the eyes of the individual with the viral infection.
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4. INFECTION CONTROL MEASURES:

- Patients suspected to be infected with viral ocular infection should be seen in a separate area in the OPD / Clinic area.
- If diagnosed with ocular viral infection to be isolated for 3 - 7 days.
- Use of plastic apron and disposable gloves.
- Thorough hand washing between each patient.
- Use of sterile equipment for eye examination.

5. HEALTH EDUCATION TO PATIENTS:

- Hand hygiene before and after eye contact.
- Personnel hygiene e.g. not to share facecloths, towels and linen items.
- Personalized use of medication - not to share.
- Eye protection from dust.
- Use of disposable paper for wiping eyes instead of re-usable handkerchiefs.
- If travelling close windows - to exclude outside air.

COMPILED BY:

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