

Blepharitis		
2.0	Last reviewed: 18/07/2022	Review date: 31/07/2025

EYE INFECTIONS

Blepharitis

Antibiotics are not routinely required, and local hygiene measures are usually effective unless there are signs of meibomian gland dysfunction or not responding to first-line treatment.

First choice		
<p>Eyelid hygiene for symptom control. Eyelids should be cleaned twice a day initially, then once daily as symptoms improve. In addition, a warm compress (a clean cloth warmed with hot water) should be applied to closed eyelids for 5 – 10 minutes once or twice daily, a brief gentle eyelid massage can also offer benefits and eye makeup should be avoided.</p>		
Second choice if hygiene measures are ineffective after 2 weeks		
Antibiotic	Dosage	Duration
topical chloramphenicol	1% ointment twice a day	6-week trial
Third choice		
oral oxytetracycline	500mg twice a day 250mg twice a day	4 weeks (initial) 8 weeks (maintenance)
OR oral doxycycline <i>(not for use in pregnancy)</i> <i>(off-licence)</i>	100mg once a day 50mg once a day	4 weeks (initial) 8 weeks (maintenance)

Referral Information

- Refer for same-day ophthalmological assessment if:
 - ✓ Symptoms of corneal disease e.g., pain and blurred vision
 - ✓ Has rapid onset visual loss
 - ✓ Suspected orbital or pre-septal cellulitis
 - ✓ Eye becomes painful and/or red
- Urgent Refer to ophthalmology if:
 - ✓ Eyelid asymmetry or deformity (to exclude malignancy)
 - ✓ Gradual deterioration of vision
 - ✓ Underlying condition suspected e.g., Sjögren's syndrome or ocular pemphigoid
 - ✓ Failed treatment in primary care
 - ✓ Uncertain diagnosis

Patient Information Leaflet

[NHS Blepharitis](#)
[Association of Optometrists Blepharitis](#)

Version Control- Eye infections (Blepharitis)			
Version	Author(s)	Date	Changes
V2.0	Karen Robinson, Interface and Formulary Technician Shary Walker, Interface and Formulary Pharmacist	05/05/22 21/06/22 22/07/22	New format for guideline Referral and patient information leaflets Doxycycline – off licensed and not for use in pregnancy