

Eye Drop & Single Dose Eye Preparation Quantities

Summary

Guidance on appropriate ordering quantities for eye drops and single dose eye preparations supplied on FP10 prescriptions.

- To ensure expenditure in this area is appropriate and consistent.
- To reduce inappropriate or duplicate requests for supply.
- To ensure appropriate prescribing quantities for this group of patients to avoid waste.

Aim/Purpose/Background

This is a cost and quality intervention;

- Identify patients prescribed eye drops and single dose eye preparations.
- Review patients repeat medication to ensure appropriate prescribing quantities of eye drops and single dose eye preparations are prescribed.
- Review patients prescribed single dose eye preparations to ensure they have a documented clinical need.
- Ensure that patients obtain repeat supplies of clinically necessary eye drop preparations in a timely manner.

Guidance for Action

- Run a report on patients currently prescribed eye preparations (drops and single dose preparations).
- Review quantities prescribed.
- For eye drops:
 - On average a drop is about 0.05mL (20 drops per mL).

Dosage	mL's required per month (One eye only)*	mL's required per month (both eyes)*
1 drop once daily	2mL	4mL
1 drop twice daily	3mL	6mL
1 drop three times daily	5mL	10mL
1 drop four times daily	6mL	12mL
1 drop five times daily	7mL	14mL

*A bottle(s) closest in volume but which contains the number of mL's required should be prescribed. For example if 3mL is required a 5mL bottle should be prescribed where available.

If 14mL is required either 2 X 10mL OR 10ml + 5ml should be prescribed depending on availability.

- Majority of eye drops expire 28 days after opening.
- For single dose preparations, the same unit dose can be used for both eyes but it is good practice to use separate units if one eye is infected and the other is not - or the left and right eye are infected with different organisms.



Dosage	Unit doses required per month (One eye only)	Unit doses required per month (Both eyes)**
1 drop once daily	28	28
1 drop twice daily	56	56
1 drop three times daily	84	84
1 drop four times daily	112	112
1 drop five times daily	140	140

**Double quantity if there is an infection or risk of infection in either eye.

- Each single unit should be discarded after administration of the dose into one or both eyes, as directed.
- Review the use of single dose eye preparations and where there is no documented reason for this formulation (preservative free) this should be flagged to the GP and reviewed with the patient, where appropriate.
- Practices should ensure that they are aware of the normal usage rate by the patient and that any irregularities are flagged to the GP and reviewed with the patient.
- Where the prescribing directions are 'when required' the frequency of use should be discussed with the patient and the prescribing quantity amended accordingly.

