

HC3 Instil eye drops to dilate the pupil prior to image capture

About this competence

This workforce competence concerns the instillation of topical eye drops for the purpose of dilating the pupil prior to image capture. Individuals instilling eye drops must have relevant authority or may work under supervision.

Before instilling eye drops, the patient must be prepared for the procedure, as described in HC1.

Links

This workforce competence links with the following dimensions and levels within the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework (October 2004)

Dimension: HWB6 Assessment and treatment planning

Level: 1

Origins

This workforce competence has been developed by Skills for Health.

It is based on common based on competence *OVS2 Instil eye medication for the purpose of investigation or treatment* developed by the Health Care Science Project.

Scope

Eye drops

where prescribed:

- a) guttae tropicamide 0.5% and 1.0%
- b) guttae phenylephrine 2.5%
- c) other drops in exceptional circumstances

Performance criteria

You need to:

1. store medication safely and securely
2. limit risks of infection by using appropriate infection control procedures
3. check which **eye drop** is to be instilled including strength, timing and frequency
4. confirm that the eye drop to be instilled has not exceeded its expiry date and has been correctly stored
5. instil the correct eye drop according to the prescription or patient group directive
6. use the correct method for instillation
7. record which eye drops have been instilled in accordance with relevant protocol
8. record any adverse event or critical incident

Knowledge and understanding

You need to apply:

National guidelines

- K1 A basic awareness of national guidelines on eye screening and on diabetes monitoring, management and education

Working in partnership with patients and carers

- K2 A working understanding of the social, cultural and economic background of the patient/carer group

Technical

- K3 A working understanding of the purpose and prescription of relevant eye medication for individual patients
- K4 A factual knowledge of the risks associated with instillation of eye medication and relevant control measures
- K5 A working understanding of the possible effects of eye medication including duration and consequences
- K6 A working understanding of adverse reactions which may occur and appropriate remedial action
- K7 A working understanding of the range of methods and techniques for instillation of eye medication and their correct application for intended purpose

Diabetes

- K8 A factual knowledge of the development of complications of diabetes
- K9 A factual knowledge of the effects of diabetes on a person's eyes

Organisational and legal issues

K10 A working understanding of your personal authority for instillation of eye medication

K11 A working understanding of relevant patient group directives

K12 A factual knowledge of the requirements for labelling and storage of eye medication

K13 A working understanding of infection control procedures and their application

A factual knowledge of requirements for accurate and legible recording of information