

NorthEast Ohio Neighborhood Health Services, Inc
EYE IRRIGATION PROCEDURES & GUIDELINES
7/2012 Update

Purpose:

The purpose of eye irrigation is to flush eye(s) with solution to remove secretions, foreign bodies, or dilute chemicals introduced into the eye(s).

Affirmation:

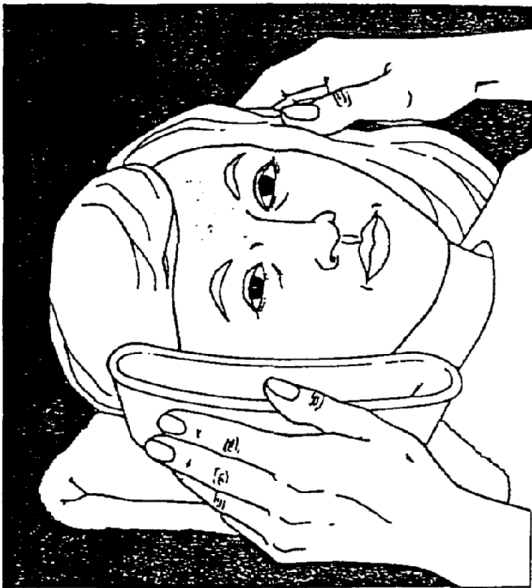
Nursing staff is obligated to utilize medical devices in the appropriate manner in order to ensure patient safety and treatment effectiveness.

General Guidelines:

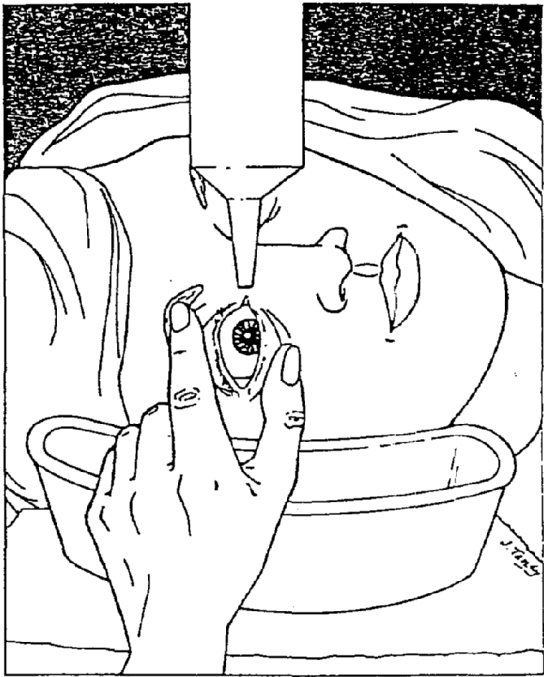
1. Generally, it is the ordering provider's responsibility to perform eye irrigation. Nonetheless, nursing staff can assist with said procedure if the guidelines herein described are followed and meet with the inspection and approval of the ordering provider.
2. Irrigation solution should be approximately 98.6 F (body temperature).
3. Extreme care should be taken to avoid injuring the eye or surrounding tissue. The tip of the irrigation syringe/bottle should not touch any part of the eye.

Procedure:

1. Assemble all equipment such as irrigating solution and syringe. Confirm with ordering provider the appropriate solution to utilize.
2. Wash your hands.
3. Explain procedure to patient/parent.
4. Patient position:
 - a. Have the patient tilt his head toward the side being irrigated (to avoid contamination of other eye) and lean over a sink.
 - b. Have the patient tilt his head toward the side being irrigated, to avoid contamination of other eye; and place a protective cover over the shoulder & neck and hold a curved basin on the cheek of the affected side to collect the irrigation solution.
5. Expose lower conjunctival sac and hold open upper lid with non dominant hand
6. Hold irrigating syringe about 1 inch from eye and direct the flow of solution gently from the **INNER canthus to OUTER canthus** along the conjunctival sac. (SEE ILLUSTRATION ON FOLLOWING PAGE)



Correct position of the patient and basin for an eye irrigation.



Position of the fingers and syringe for an eye irrigation.