


## BNF Chapter 11 Eye

### Formulary Key


1st line formulary choice		Encouraged
Alternative formulary choice		On Formulary
2nd line formulary choice		2nd Line
Shared Care (TAG Amber)		Shared Care Agreement

Drug	Formulations	Dose	Notes
<b>11.1 Allergic and Inflammatory eye conditions - also see Allergy Formulary</b>			
<b>11.1.1 Allergic Conjunctivitis</b>			
SODIUM CROMOGLICATE 	Drops 2% 13.5ml	Apply 4 times a day.	Sodium Cromoglicate 2% drops are available to purchase from pharmacies for treatment of acute seasonal and perennial allergic conjunctivitis.

### 11.1.2 Inflammatory Eye Conditions

Corticosteroids administered locally to eye should normally only be used under expert supervision as long term use may be associated with development of 'steroid glaucoma' or 'steroid cataract'. Use in infective conditions may lead to corneal ulceration and loss of vision. Use of combination products containing a corticosteroid and anti-infective are rarely justified except after ocular surgery.

#### First line choice

DEXAMETHASONE 	Drops 0.1%	Frequently for first 24-48 hours as per specialist recommendation, reducing as inflammation is controlled.	Short-term use only.
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### 11.1.3 Uveitis, anterior


Suspected cases of both new and recurrent uveitis should be referred for assessment by an ophthalmologist within 24 hours of presentation.

Treatment for uveitis should not be initiated in primary [NICE CKS](#)





## 11.2 Dry Eye Conditions

See [Key Message Bulletin 44: Management of Dry Eyes](#)

#### First line choice



HYPROMELLOSE 	Drops 0.30%	Frequent application i.e. hourly as required	
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#### Second line choice - see Dry Eye Pathway

POLYVINYL ALCOHOL 	Drops 1.40%	Apply as required	As cost effective brand e.g. <b>Sno Tears®</b>
CARBOMER 	Drops 0.20%	Apply 4 times a day or as required.	As cost effective brand e.g. <b>Viscotears®</b> or <b>Clinitas carbomer gel®</b>
SODIUM HYALURONATE 	Drops 0.20%	1 or 2 drops into affected eye(s) as required	<b>As Cost effective brand e.g. Blink Intensive tears</b>
CARMELLOSE SODIUM 	Drops 0.50%	Apply as required	See PF options below

Thicker Gels / Ointments for nighttime instillation - best suited to application before sleep as may cause visual disturbance.

#### First line choice









PARAFFIN BASED OINTMENTS 	Ointment 57.3% WSP, 42.5% LP, 0.2% wool alcohols	Apply at night	As cost effective brand: <b>VitA-POS®</b> <b>Preservative free - 6 month shelf life after opening.</b>
	Ointment mineral oil, lanolin 	Apply at night	As cost effective brand: <b>Xailin Night®</b>

### Preservative free options for Dry Eye

A preservative free (PF) product may be used if signs of allergy / intolerance. The risk of irritation from the preservative increases with the frequency of dosing.

Products that do not contain preservatives are packed as single doses and are more expensive than multi-dose preparations, which contain preservatives. Multi-dose eye drop products are also available which are preservative free and have an extended shelf life due to the technology of the eye bottle delivery system. If prescribed, care must be taken in monitoring frequency of prescription issues.

A number of products are available which contain a biodegradable preservative. These are considered preservative free in the eye as the preservative is converted in to water and oxygen on contact with the eye surface by ocular enzymes. Biodegradable preservatives are known to be quite safe in patients with mild-moderate dry eye syndromes and are much preferred than eye drops containing chemical preservatives. However, for patients with severe dry eye, biodegradable preservatives may not totally break down, due to the decrease in tear volume, and may cause irritation (*UKMI*)

HYPROMELLOSE		PF Drops 0.30%	One drop 2 to 4 times daily as required	As cost effective brand: <b>Evolve Hypromellose®</b> (formerly Lumecare Evolve Hypromellose 0.3%).
		Single use vials 0.30%	One or two drops 3 to 4 times daily or as required	As cost effective brand: <b>Lumecare Singles®</b>
CARBOMER		Gel 0.20%	One drop 2 to 4 times daily as required	As cost effective brand: <b>Xailin Gel® PF in eye</b>
SODIUM HYALURONATE		Single use vials 0.20%	One or two drops as required	As cost effective brand: <b>Blink Intensive Tears</b>
		PF Drops 0.20%	One drop 2 to 4 times daily as required	As cost effective brand: <b>Oxylal® - Contains biodegradable preservative - 60 day shelf life after opening OR HydraMed Sodium Hyaluronate PF</b>
CARMELLOSE SODIUM		Single use vials 0.50%	One drop 2 to 4 times daily as required	As cost effective brand: <b>Xailin Fresh®</b>
		PF Drops 0.50%	One drop 2 to 4 times daily as required	As cost effective brand: <b>Evolve Carmellose®</b> (formerly Lumecare Evolve Carmellose 0.5%)
CICLOSPORIN		Single use vials 0.10%	1 drop into affected eye(s) at bedtime	As licensed brand: <b>Ikervis. TAG Green: GP prescribable at the request of Consultant.</b>

Auto Droppers can be purchased from pharmacies to aid administration of eye drops directly in to the eye and for patients with manual dexterity problems.

Guidance on the use of unlicensed eye preparations is available from : [The Royal College of Ophthalmologists](http://www.rcophth.ac.uk)

Advice for Contact Lens Users - [See BNF](#)

Some drugs and preservatives in eye preparations can accumulate in hydrogel lenses and may induce toxic reactions. Therefore, unless medically indicated, the lenses should be removed before instillation of the eye preparation and not worn during the period of treatment. Alternatively, unpreserved drops can be used.

#### 11.4 Eye Procedures

Oxybuprocaine and tetracaine are widely used topical local anaesthetics for minor surgical procedures. Available as single use vials.


#### 11.5 Glaucoma and Ocular Hypertension

##### First line choice


Recommended first line treatment options are either; a topical prostaglandin analogue or betablocker

[\(NICE CKS\)](#)

##### Beta blockers

TIMOLOL		Drops 0.25%	Apply twice a day	Contraindicated in bradycardia, heart block and uncontrolled heart failure.
		0.5%		

##### Prostaglandin Analogues

LATANOPROST		Drops 50micrograms /ml	Apply once daily preferably at night
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##### Second line choice

An alternative class of drug or combination of drug classes may be required if glaucoma progresses while the person is on drug treatment, or intraocular pressure cannot be reduced sufficiently with first line treatment options

[\(NICE CKS\)](#)


##### Sympathomimetics

BRIMONIDINE		Drops 0.2%	Apply twice a day
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##### Carbonic Anhydrase inhibitors

DORZOLAMIDE		Drops 0.2%	Apply three times a day.
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Generic combination preparations may be appropriate when dual treatment with beta blocker is required and compliance is an issue.

LATANOPROST with TIMOLOL		Drops 50micrograms,5 mg / ml	Apply once daily
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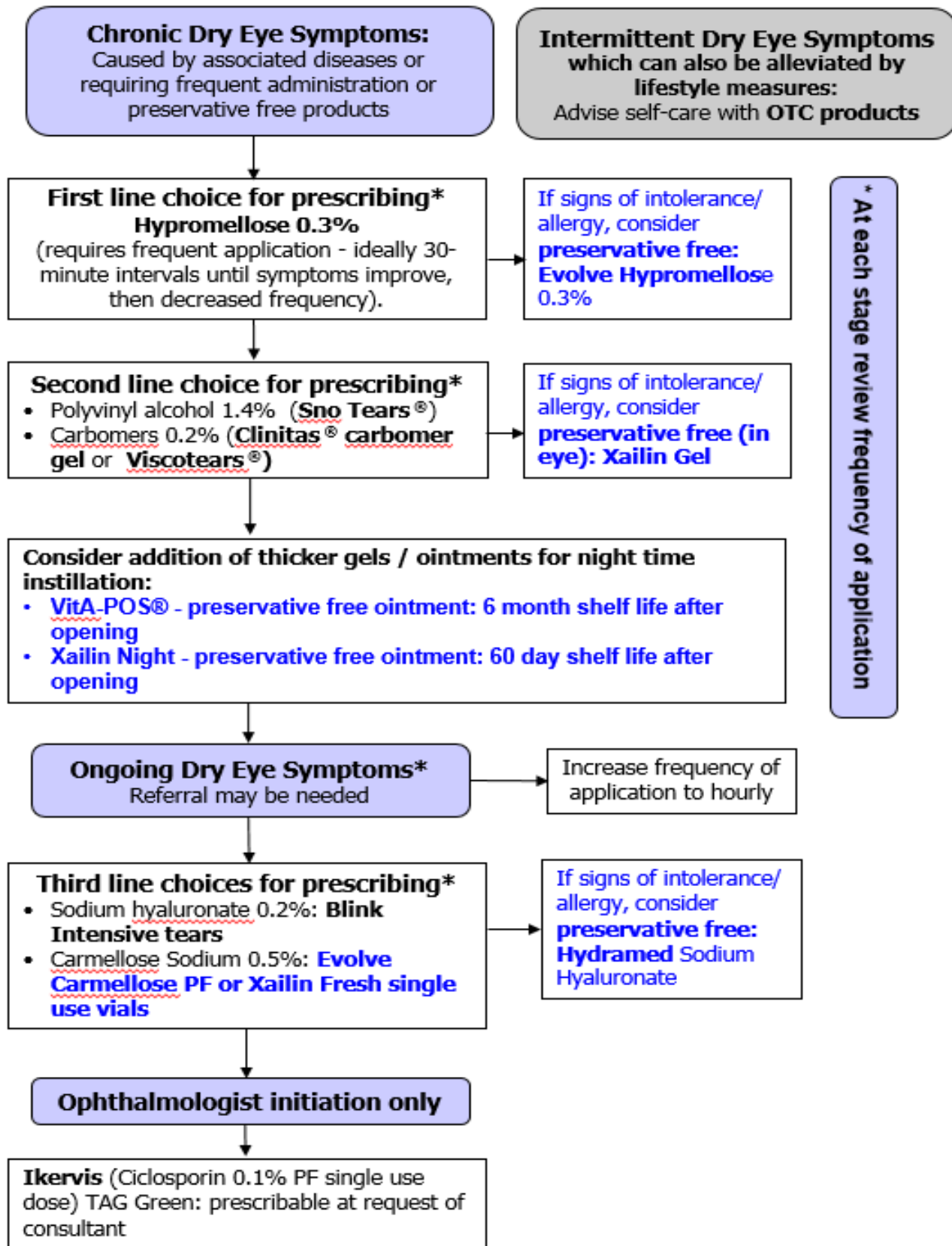
DORZOLAMIDE with TIMOLOL		Drops 0.2% / 0.5%	Apply twice a day
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Preservative free options - for chronic open angle glaucoma, replacement with a preservative-free preparation is recommended when allergy is confirmed. For ocular hypertension or suspected chronic open angle glaucoma, replacement with a preservative-free preparation is only recommended if high risk of developing chronic open angle glaucoma. If not high risk, treatment is not cost-effective and may be withdrawn [\(NICE CKS\)](#).

#### 11.7 Local Anaesthetics

Oxybuprocaine and tetracaine are widely used topical local anaesthetics for minor surgical procedures. Available as single use vials.

## Dry Eye Pathway for Tear Film Disorder in Primary Care



See [AGEM CSU Eye Formulary](#)

V.1.4 Feb 2019 Review: Feb 2021

## Version Control

Version	Date	Author	Contact	Status	Comment
1.0	May-14	NEL CSU Anglia Prescribing and Medicines Management Team	Ian Small, Director of Prescribing & Medicine Management	Final	
1.1	Aug-16	NEL CSU Anglia Prescribing and Medicines Management Team	Ian Small, Director of Prescribing & Medicine Management	Update	Blink intensive care added as cost effective choice of Sodium Hyaluronate - OXYal removed. Optive removed as cost effective choice of acrmellose - see PF options as more cost effective. Evolve Hypromellose added as PF choice - Moorfields and Tear Lac removed. Blink Intensive Tears SUVs and Oxyal added as PF options for sodium hyalauronate. Moorfields Carmellose removed - Evolve carmellose added. Ikervis added.
1.2	Mar-17	NEL CSU Anglia Prescribing and Medicines Management Team	Ian Small, Director of Prescribing & Medicine Management	Update	PVA Tubilux removed as discontinued by manufacturer.
1.3	Feb-19	AGEM CSU Anglia Medicines Optimisation Team	LB	Update	Comment added regarding tolerability of biodegradable preservatives. Hydramed added as a true PF option for sodium hyalauronate. Link to Dry Eye KMB added.