

## H-110 Eye Irrigation

### Purpose

Remove secretions from the conjunctival site.

Irrigate following the instillation of certain diagnostic drugs.

### Applies To

Registered Nurses

Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurses

Other (*Identify*): \_\_\_\_\_

### Equipment/Supplies

- Sterile 10 ml syringe or eye irrigating syringe.
- Sterile kidney basin and round basin.
- Prescribed solution.
- Sterile gauze pads.
- Towels.
- Disposable gloves.

### Procedure

1. Gather equipment.
2. Wash hands. Refer to the Hand Washing procedure.
3. Don clean gloves.
4. Position the client in a sitting or lying position with head tilted toward the affected side.
5. Draw up irrigating solution syringe.
6. Have client hold curved basin to catch solution.
7. Cleanse eye with sterile gauze pad wiping from inner to outer canthus. Use cleansing solution to wash eyelashes and eyelids. *Use gauze pad only once.*
8. Hold upper eyelid to keep eye open. Avert the lower conjunctival sac.
9. Instill irrigating solution at inner canthus, allowing it to flow to outer canthus. *Do not touch the eyeball with dropper or syringe. Continue irrigating until eye is cleansed or amount of prescribed solution is used.*
10. Be careful not to exert pressure on the eyeball.
11. Periodically, have the client close his/her eyes.
12. When irrigation is complete, gently dry the eye with sterile gauze pad.

13. If both eyes are to be treated, wash hands. Refer to the Hand Washing procedure. Apply new gloves before treating second eye.
14. Clean reusable equipment and dispose of disposable supplies as outlined in the Agency Waste Disposal Policy.
15. Remove gloves and wash hands. Refer to Hand Washing procedure.

**Documentation Guidelines**

Document in the clinical record:

1. Solution name, dose, route, and time of administration.
2. Status of eye and drainage characteristics.
3. The client’s tolerance of the procedure. Teaching done and response to teaching.

**Related Procedures**

None

**Policy History**

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