



Kernow
Clinical Commissioning Group

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NHS Kernow Clinical Commissioning
Group
Room 210 Cornwall Council Offices
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Dear colleagues,

Minor ailment service (bacterial conjunctivitis) recommissioned

During March 2021, we wrote to you to advise that NHS Kernow Clinical Commissioning Group (NHS Kernow) were no longer able to commission the minor ailment service for the management of bacterial conjunctivitis in children. (This change was made following guidance from the European Commission advising against the use of boron-containing eye drops in young children and a subsequent change in product licensing.)

Following a review of the available toxicological data and a calculation of daily exposure to boron from a typical dosing regimen, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) have concluded that the balance between the benefits and risks of chloramphenicol eye drops containing borax or boric acid remains positive for children aged 0 to 2 years. The product information for affected chloramphenicol products is being updated to reflect the revised advice and remove restrictions for use in infants.

Chloramphenicol eye drops can be safely administered to children aged 0 to 2 years where antibiotic eye drop treatment is indicated. (Full details may be found in the MHRA [drug safety update](#).)

We are now able to commission, under the minor ailment service the "Patient group direction (PGD) for the supply of chloramphenicol 0.5% eye drops by community pharmacists in the management of bacterial conjunctivitis".

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Shaping services we can all be proud of

The PGD is available on the [patient group direction](#) area on the Cornwall joint formulary and PharmOutcomes. Please read, print, and sign a copy of the PGD and keep in your pharmacy and complete the relevant declaration of competence on PharmOutcomes, if necessary.

The template on PharmOutcomes has been updated in line with the new PGD and will be in operation with immediate effect.

There is no longer a requirement to return signing sheets for the patient group directions to NHS Kernow.

Yours sincerely,

Medicines optimisation team
NHS Kernow Clinical Commissioning Group