



# Eye Care in Critical Care



**Aim:** To provide guidance on nursing care for the eyes of patients in Critical Care

**Scope:** All adult patients in Critical Care

## ASSESS EYES / PATIENT

- Within **2hours** of admission
- At least **12hourly** thereafter

## PATIENT AWAKE & ABLE TO BLINK

- Allow patient to perform own eye care (or with assistance when required) by cleaning eyes as part of the patient facial wash or at patients request.
- If eye become sticky or encrusted use sterile gauze and sterile water

**Seek senior medical / ophthalmology advice for patients with eye disease, infection or injury, including post-op surgery and chemo/radiotherapy related red eye.**

## Standard Eye Care

1	Clean eyes with sterile water soaked gauze , cleaning from inner aspect of lids at the nose and sweep across the lids to outer aspect. This prevents the spread of infection or debris being introduced into the lachrymal system .
2	Clean along both sets of lashes; do not drag debris across the surface of the eye.
3	Use new gauze swab for each sweep and for each eye.
4	Apply prescribed ocular lubricant.

## Sedated Patient (Difficulty Blinking)

- Standard eye care 4 hourly
- Consider taping eyelids closed, especially during interventions e.g. proning, transfers and procedures.

## Sedated & Paralysed (Unable To Blink)

- Standard eye care 2 hourly
- Consider taping eyelids closed, especially during interventions e.g. proning, transfers and procedures.

**HIGH RISK OF EYE INJURY**

Please see your units full guidelines for more information

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