



BRIGHAM AND WOMEN'S HOSPITAL

75 Francis Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02115



PATIENT IDENTIFICATION AREA

Newborn Nursery Eye Prophylaxis Refusal

Brigham and Women's Hospital, in accordance with the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Centers for Disease Control, recommends that all newborns receive eye prophylaxis (preventive treatment) shortly after birth to protect against bacterial infections. This occurs through the use of erythromycin antibiotic eye ointment generally within one hour after the infant's birth.

I understand that the antibiotic eye ointment is designed to prevent harm to the newborn's eyes resulting from exposure to bacteria before, during, or after delivery. The mother may not know for certain that she does not have an infection. Certain bacterial infections may be present in a person who does not have symptoms. Even testing at an earlier point during the pregnancy does not always prevent newborn disease because the infection could have happened after the test was obtained.

If the treatment is not given, the following injuries could occur to your child: severe eye infection with serious problems including impaired vision or blindness. If the eye infection is not treated, or if treatment is delayed, your child could develop an infection that spreads to other parts of the body.

The reasons to provide erythromycin eye ointment to prevent eye infections in my baby have been discussed with me by my baby's physician. I understand the risks and choose not to have erythromycin eye ointment given to my baby.

Parent Signature

Date

Time

AM/PM

Parent Signature

Date

Time

AM/PM

Physician Signature

Date

Time

AM/PM

Print Physician Name and Pager #