

## **Erythromycin Ophthalmic Ointment Shortage**

FDA recently became aware of a shortage of erythromycin ophthalmic ointment due to one manufacturer ceasing production. The remaining two manufacturers are working to increase production during this period of drug shortage. We anticipate intermittent supply issues for both the 1 gram and 3.5 gram tubes. Erythromycin ophthalmic ointment is approved for prophylaxis of ophthalmia neonatorum due to *N. gonorrhoeae* or *C. trachomatis* and is the only product approved for this indication currently commercially available in the United States. Erythromycin ophthalmic ointment is also approved for the treatment of superficial ocular infections involving the conjunctiva and/or cornea caused by organisms susceptible to erythromycin. Other products are also approved for the treatment of these types of infections.

### **What is FDA doing to address the shortage of erythromycin ophthalmic ointment?**

- FDA is working with manufacturers to increase production of erythromycin ophthalmic ointment.
- FDA looking at various options to support the availability of erythromycin ophthalmic ointment.

### **What can health care providers do?**

- While erythromycin ophthalmic ointment is also approved for the treatment of superficial ocular infections involving the conjunctiva and/or cornea caused by organisms susceptible to erythromycin, health care providers are asked to consider alternative drugs for this indication during this time of shortage to maximize the availability of erythromycin ophthalmic ointment for prophylaxis of ophthalmia neonatorum.

FDA's Drug Shortage Webpage provides additional information about the [shortage](#) and is updated regularly.

FDA will continue to provide updates regarding the shortage of erythromycin ophthalmic ointment.