	The Johns Hopkins Hospital Interdisciplinary Clinical Practice Manual Infection Control	<i>Policy Number</i>	IFC034	
		<i>Effective Date</i>	11/22/2011	
		<i>Approval Date</i>	10/25/2011	
	<i>Subject</i>	Prevention and Control of Conjunctivitis	<i>Page</i>	1 of 4
			<i>Supersedes</i>	10/07/2008

Keywords: Epidemic Keratoconjunctivitis (EKC) Conjunctivitis, Viral Conjunctivitis, Pink Eye, Red Eye, Adenovirus, Occupational Health, Wilmer Eye Institute, Virology Laboratory

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I. OBJECTIVES


- A. To prevent exposure and transmission of patients, visitors, and healthcare workers to conjunctivitis.
- B. To reduce the risk of transmission of conjunctivitis from recognized sources in the hospital.

II. INDICATIONS FOR USE

- A. This policy shall be implemented to prevent transmission of conjunctivitis and to prevent the spread of infection to patients and personnel at the Johns Hopkins Hospital.

III. DEFINITIONS

Conjunctivitis (also referred to as red eye or pink eye)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inflammation of the conjunctiva (the outermost layer covering the white of the eyes and the inner surface of the eyelids) characterized by redness and may be accompanied by discharge
Viral Conjunctivitis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caused by a variety of viral agents-conjunctival involvement may be part of a systemic infection • Viral conjunctivitis is highly transmissible and can spread rapidly between people
Bacterial and/or Fungal Conjunctivitis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caused by bacteria and/or fungus that infect the eye through various sources of contamination

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Epidemic Keratoconjunctivitis (EKC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A highly contagious type of viral conjunctivitis caused by adenovirus • Produces inflammation of the cornea and conjunctiva of the eye • The infection is capable of spreading rapidly causing an outbreak
Pink Eye	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suspected conjunctivitis

IV. RESPONSIBILITY

- A. JHH/JHU/JHMI Staff will follow the requirements of this policy as outlined.
- B. Supervisor/Managers of all Departments will ensure employee and visitor compliance with this policy.
- C. Authorized Prescriber will comply with directions outlined in this policy.
- D. Wilmer Eye Institute Authorized Provider
 1. Ensure they are in compliance with this policy.
 2. Follow directions outlined in Appendix B.
 3. Consult on and validate suspected cases of hospital acquired conjunctivitis.
- E. Wilmer Eye Institute QI Committee/General Eye Service (GES)
 1. Collaborate with HEIC for outbreak management of suspected cases of hospital acquired conjunctivitis.
- F. Hospital Epidemiology and Infection Control (HEIC)
 1. Provide education and training
 2. Collaborate with Occupational Health.
 3. Assist with questions concerning this policy.
 4. Collaborate with Wilmer QI Committee for outbreak management of hospital acquired conjunctivitis.
- G. Occupational Health
 1. Evaluate employees with complaints of pink eye.
 2. Swab affected eye(s) for adenoviral PCR if high suspicion of viral conjunctivitis.
 3. Manage employees' return to duty.
- H. Virology Laboratory
 1. Perform PCR testing as described in this policy.
 2. Report results rapidly to facilitate management of employee return to duty.

V. PROCEDURE

- A. It is critically important that each employee perform hand hygiene with soap and water or waterless alcohol based hand sanitizer before and after each patient contact, each time gloves are removed, and after all contact with contaminated environment. following hospital policy ([IFC001: Hand Hygiene](#))
- B. An employee with signs and symptoms of eye redness and or inflammation must report to the Employee Health and Wellness Center (EHWC) for evaluation (see Appendix A). The EHWC staff will make any necessary referrals for the employee (i.e., to Wilmer Eye Institute, etc.)
- C. Individuals presenting to the Wilmer Eye Institute shall be evaluated as described in Appendix B.

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- D. Identifying viral or bacterial conjunctivitis is important in preventing and controlling the spread of conjunctivitis. Viral PCR testing shall be performed on any employee and select patients in whom viral conjunctivitis is suspected based on clinical presentation and provider discretion (refer to Appendix C). PCR will be performed with 24 hour time to result (Monday through Friday) on employees and select patients, after consultation and request by HEIC.
- E. All employees shall follow standard precautions to reduce the risk of transmission of microorganisms from both recognized and unrecognized sources ([ICF023 Infection Control and Prevention: Standard and Isolation Precautions](#) Appendix B)
- F. Contact isolation shall be implemented for patients with suspected viral conjunctivitis ([IFC023: Infection Control and Prevention: Standard and Isolation Precautions](#) Appendix B)
- G. In the event that epidemic keratoconjunctivitis (EKC) occurs within the hospital, HEIC and the Wilmer Eye Institute QI Committee shall collaborate and follow guidelines set forth in the Outbreak Management Plan ([IFC025: Outbreak Management Policy](#)).
- H. Instruments shall be disinfected as outlined in Appendix B.
- I. Medication shall be used as outlined in Appendix B.

VI. REPORTABLE CONDITIONS

- A. Any employee with signs and symptoms of conjunctivitis must report to Occupational Health (Phipps 351- the Employee Health and Wellness Center) for evaluation.
- B. Occupational Health shall report identified clusters of conjunctivitis to HEIC.

VII. EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION


This policy will be communicated to the appropriate JHH personnel via the following channels:

1. Annual infection control training sessions to communicate the above information and ad hoc sessions to provide updates about disease activity in the community and the Institute are provided as necessary. HEIC may be involved in such sessions when needed.
2. Updates and revisions will be communicated via Medical Staff and Nursing publications.
3. Nurse Managers, Physician Advisors, Residency Coordinators, Department Chiefs and Department Management will be responsible to train new employees regarding the policy as appropriate, and to communicate updates to the protocol. Records of the training and educational session's attendance shall be maintained by the institute. These records shall include the date of the training session, its duration, a summary of the training topics, and the name of the trainer. This policy will be placed in the Interdisciplinary Clinical Practice Manual on the JHH Intranet site <http://www.insidehopkinsmedicine.org/hpo> and paper distributions will be made to the Functional Unit Nursing offices in the event of web access difficulty.
4. Online at www.hopkins-HEIC.org.

VIII. SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

See Also:

Interdisciplinary Clinical Practice Manual

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- [IFC001 Hand Hygiene Policy](#)
- [PAT051 Medication Administration Management Policy](#)
- [IFC002 Infection Control Management of Personnel Policy](#)
- [IFC023 Infection Control and Prevention: Standard and Isolation Precautions](#)
- [IFC025 Outbreak Management Plan](#)

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Sponsor:

- Medical Care Evaluation Committee

Developer:

- Hospital Epidemiology and Infection Control Department

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Date:

Date: