

Erythromycin Ophthalmic Ointment Shortage

FDA was recently made aware of a shortage of Erythromycin Ophthalmic Ointment due to a change in manufacturers. Fera Pharmaceuticals recently acquired the rights to the product and they are actively working to make Erythromycin Ophthalmic Ointment available. Bausch and Lomb also manufactures Erythromycin Ophthalmic Ointment and they are working to increase production during this period of drug shortage. We anticipate shortages of 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 has worked with the manufacturer to facilitate distribution of available product to hospitals for neonatal prophylaxis use.

What can healthcare 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 will continue to provide updates regarding the shortage of Erythromycin Ophthalmic Ointment.