

Dear Colleague,

CDC has created a new web page with updated guidance and recommendations for dealing with the shortage of erythromycin (0.5%) ophthalmic ointment. Please share the following link to the web page broadly. CDC will use this web page for any future updates on this issue.

[CDC Guidance on Shortage of Erythromycin \(0.5%\) Ophthalmic Ointment - September 2009](http://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment/2006/erythromycinOintmentShortage.htm)

– Go to: <http://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment/2006/erythromycinOintmentShortage.htm>

The Department of State Health Services will propose emergency rules to add 1% azithromycin ophthalmic solution, 0.3% gentamicin ophthalmic ointment, and 0.3% tobramycin ophthalmic ointment to 0.5% erythromycin ophthalmic ointment as approved prophylactic treatments for newborns.

For treatment questions during the shortage contact:

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DSHS will monitor the situation, and provide updates as developments warrant.