

# Ophthalmia Neonatorum

## Fact Sheet

### What is it?

Neonatal conjunctivitis, also known as ophthalmia neonatorum, is a form of bacterial conjunctivitis or eye infection newborns can get during delivery. The baby's eyes are contaminated during passage through the birth canal from a mother infected with either *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* or *Chlamydia trachomatis*.

### How is it treated?

Eyedrops containing erythromycin are used to prevent the condition. If left untreated, it can cause blindness.

### Other Questions?

Talk to your health care provider or call our Communicable Disease Program at 613-966-5500 or 1-800-267-2803, ext. 349. | TTY Dial 711 (1-800-267-6511) | [hpePublicHealth.ca](http://hpePublicHealth.ca)

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