

# Chlorafast

## Chloramphenicol Eye Drops BP 0.5% w/v

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### What is in this leaflet

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This leaflet answers some common questions about CHLORAFAST.

It does not contain all of the available information. It does not take the place of talking to your doctor or pharmacist.

All medicines have benefits and risks. Your doctor or pharmacist has weighed the risks of you using CHLORAFAST against the benefits they expect it will have for you.

**If you have any concerns about taking this medicine, talk to your doctor or pharmacist.**

**Keep this leaflet with your medicine.** You may need to read it again.

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### What CHLORAFAST is used for

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CHLORAFAST contains chloramphenicol, an antibiotic, used to treat bacterial conjunctivitis and other superficial eye infections. It works by stopping the growth of the bacteria causing your infection.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions about why this medicine has been prescribed for you.

CHLORAFAST is available with a doctor's prescription or over the counter from a pharmacist in a pharmacy.

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### Before you use CHLORAFAST

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#### *When you must not use it*

**Do not use CHLORAFAST if you are allergic to:**

- chloramphenicol or any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet
- any other similar medicines

Symptoms of an allergic reaction may include shortness of breath, wheezing or difficulty breathing; swelling of the face, lips, tongue or other parts of the body; rash, itching or hives on the skin.

**Do not use CHLORAFAST if you are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed.**

**Do not use CHLORAFAST after the expiry date printed on the pack.** If you use it after the expiry date has passed, it may have no effect at all, or worse, there may be an entirely unexpected effect.

**Do not purchase or use CHLORAFAST if the packaging is torn or shows signs of tampering.**

**Do not give CHLORAFAST to babies or children unless your doctor tells you.**

### ***Before you use it***

You must tell your doctor or pharmacist if:

1. **you are allergic to any other medicines or any foods, dyes or preservatives.**
2. **you have or have had anaemia, bleeding or other blood problems**
3. **you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant**

CHLORAFAST like all other medications should not be used during pregnancy, unless your doctor tells you.

4. **you are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed**

CHLORAFAST should not be used when breastfeeding as it passes into breast milk in small amounts.

**If you have not told your doctor or pharmacist about any of the above, tell them before you use CHLORAFAST.**

### ***Taking other medicines***

**Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are using any other medicines, including medicines that you buy without a prescription from a pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.**

- Some medicines may interfere with CHLORAFAST. These include other eye drops and eye ointments.

These medicines may be affected by CHLORAFAST or may affect how well it works. You may need different amounts of your medicines, or you may need to use different medicines.

Your doctor or pharmacist has more information on medicines to be careful with or avoid while using CHLORAFAST.

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## **How to use CHLORAFAST**

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### ***How to use it***

Before opening the bottle for the first time, tighten the cap on the nozzle. The spike in the cap will pierce the tip of the bottle.

The eye drops can then be dispensed from the bottle with gentle pressure.

Replace the cap after every use.

### ***How much to use***

The dose of CHLORAFAST may be different for each person and their medical condition. Your doctor and pharmacist will recommend the right dose for you.

The recommended dose is 1 or 2 drops into the affected eye(s) every two to six hours for two to three days. The interval between applications may then be increased.

**To minimise systemic absorption or absorption of medicine to other parts of the body, apply gentle pressure to the tear duct for approximately one minute immediately after application.**

### ***How long to use it***

CHLORAFAST should be used exactly as directed by your doctor.

Treatment should however be continued for at least 48 hours after the eye appears normal.

### ***If you forget to use it***

**If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the dose you missed and use your next dose when you are meant to.**

**Otherwise, use it as soon as you remember, and then go back to using it as you would normally.**

**Do not use a double dose to make up for the dose that you missed.**

This may increase the chance of you getting an unwanted side effect.

**If you are not sure what to do, ask your doctor or pharmacist.**

If you have trouble remembering when to take your medicine, ask your pharmacist for some hints.

### ***If you use too much (overdose)***

If irritation, pain, swelling, excessive tears or an uncomfortable sensitivity to light occur after undesired eye contact, the exposed eye(s) should be irrigated with large amounts of room temperature water for at least 15 minutes. Contact your doctor if symptoms persist after 15 minutes of thorough rinsing of the eye(s).

Immediately telephone your doctor or the **Poisons Information Centre (phone 0800 POISON (0800 764 766))** or go to Accident and Emergency at your nearest hospital if you think an infant or young child may have accidentally swallowed CHLORAFAST.

Do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning. The child may need urgent medical attention.

Contact your doctor or the Poisons Information Centre if you or another adult accidentally swallows CHLORAFAST eye drops. It is a good idea to do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning.

**Keep telephone numbers for these places handy.**

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## **While you are using CHLORAFAST**

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### ***Things you must do***

**Use CHLORAFAST exactly as your doctor has prescribed.**

If the symptoms of your infection do not improve within a few days, or if they become worse, tell your doctor.

**Tell all doctors, dentists and pharmacists who are treating you that you are using CHLORAFAST.**

**Tell your doctor immediately if you become pregnant while you are using CHLORAFAST.**

### ***Things you must not do***

**Do not drive or operate machinery until you know how CHLORAFAST affects you.**

CHLORAFAST may cause temporary blurring of vision. Make sure your vision is clear before you drive a car, operate machinery, or do anything else that could be dangerous.

**Do not use CHLORAFAST for a longer time than your doctor has prescribed.**

**Do not use this medicine to treat any other complaints unless your doctor says to.**

**Do not give this medicine to anyone else, even if their symptoms seem similar to yours.**

### ***Things to be careful of***

**Be careful if you are elderly, unwell or taking other medicines.**

Some people may experience side effects such as distorted or blurred vision, which may increase the risk of a fall.

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## **Side effects**

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**Tell your doctor or pharmacist as soon as possible if you do not feel well while you are using CHLORAFAST.**

CHLORAFAST helps most people with eye infections, but it may have unwanted side effects in some people.

All medicines have side effects. Sometimes they are serious, most of the time they are not. You may need medical treatment if you get some of the side effects.

**Ask your doctor or pharmacist any questions you may have.**

**Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you notice the following and they worry you:**

- temporary itching, burning or stinging eyes

The above side effects are usually mild and short-lived.

Tell your doctor as soon as possible if you notice any of the following:

- skin rash, itching or swelling
- fever
- unusual tiredness, weakness, bleeding or bruising more easily than normal

The above list includes very serious side effects, which may require medical attention. Serious side effects are rare.

**If any of the following happen, tell your doctor immediately or go to Accident and Emergency at your nearest hospital:**

- Allergic reactions including fever, rash, swelling of the face, lips, mouth or sore throat that may cause difficulty in swallowing or breathing, shortness of breath, swelling of the hands, feet or ankles.

The above list includes serious side effects. You may need urgent medical attention or hospitalisation.

Other side effects not listed above may also occur in some people.

**Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you notice anything that is making you feel unwell during or after treatment with CHLORAFAST.**

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## **After using CHLORAFAST**

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### ***Storage***

Store CHLORAFAST eye drops in the refrigerator where the temperature stays between 2 – 8°C. Do not freeze. Discard 4 weeks after opening. Protect from light.

**Keep CHLORAFAST where children cannot reach it.**

### ***Disposal***

If your doctor tells you to stop using CHLORAFAST or it has passed its expiry date, ask your pharmacist what to do with any CHLORAFAST that is left over.

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## **Product Description**

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### ***What CHLORAFAST looks like***

CHLORAFAST 0.5% eye drop solution is a colourless to faint yellow solution in a 10mL plastic dropper bottle.

### ***Ingredients***

CHLORAFAST contains 0.5%w/v (5mg/mL) chloramphenicol as the active ingredient.

It also contains phenyl mercuric nitrate 0.02% w/v as a preservative, borax, boric acid and Water for Injection

### ***Supplier***

CHLORAFAST is distributed in New Zealand by:

Arrow Pharmaceuticals (NZ) Limited  
33a Normanby Road, Mt. Eden  
Auckland, New Zealand.

### ***Date of preparation***

1 September 2010