

7 MLAR 1

4-12-82

1 Department of Health

2

3 Adopted Amendments to Rule Relating to Prophylaxis for Ophthalmia
4 Neonatorum

5

6 Rule as Adopted

7 MHD 326 Additional control measures for certain communicable
8 diseases.

9 (o) Ophthalmia neonatorum.

10 (1) Definition. Any condition of the eye or eyes of an
11 infant, independent of the nature of the infection, in which
12 there is any inflammation, swelling, or redness in either one or
13 both eyes of any such infant, either apart from, or together
14 with, any unnatural discharge from the eye or eyes of any such
15 infant within two weeks of the birth of such infant, shall be
16 known as ophthalmia neonatorum.

17 (2) Prophylaxis. The licensed health professional in
18 charge of the delivery at the time of the birth of any newborn
19 infant shall instill or have instilled, within one hour of birth
20 or as soon as possible thereafter, a one percent solution of
21 silver nitrate, or tetracycline ointment or drops, or
22 erythromycin ointment or drops.

23 (3) Treatment. A licensed health professional who is not
24 a licensed physician but who is in charge of the care of a
25 newborn infant shall immediately bring to the attention of a
26 licensed physician every case in which symptoms of inflammation
27 develop in one or both eyes of an infant in his or her care.

28 (4) Objections. If a parent objects or both parents
29 object to the prophylactic treatment of a newborn infant and the
30 health professional has honored the objection, the health
31 professional shall retain a record of the objection.