



BIOS | BRITISH AND IRISH
ORTHOPTIC SOCIETY

Position statement on the safety concerns of chloramphenicol eye drops containing Boron additives.

Dear members,

There has been a safety alert issued on the use of chloramphenicol drops containing Boron additives in children under the age of two years. Consequently, the following contraindication has been issued by many manufacturers:

'This medicinal product must not be given to a child less than 2 years old as it contains boron and may impair fertility in the future.'

BIOS recognises the impact that this will have on paediatric ophthalmic medicine and will affect many Orthoptic departments. BIOS is closely monitoring the situation alongside the Royal College of Ophthalmologists and will continue to update you when new information emerges.

In the meantime, please refer to the following statement issued by the RCOphth to guide your clinical practice.

<https://www.rcophth.ac.uk/2021/04/safety-alert-boron-additives-in-chloramphenicol-drops/>

Orthoptists using exemptions are advised **not** to use drugs off-label. Understandably, this is a major limitation of exemptions and highlights the need for independent prescribing.

Any queries can be directed to the Medicines CAG to the following address:

medicines@orthoptics.org.uk

Karzan Hughes and Lorraine North
Co-leads