

1

Conjunctivitis

Patient name: _____ Admission: _____

NRS
DATE INITIAL

--	--

- I. **The client/caregiver can define conjunctivitis.**
 - A. It is an inflammation of the conjunctive, the clear membrane that covers the white part of the eye and inner surface of the eyelids.
 - B. Viruses, bacteria, allergies, or substances that irritate the eyes can cause conjunctivitis.
 - C. It is commonly called “pink eye.”
 - D. It is very contagious.

- II. **The client/caregiver can recognize signs and symptoms.**
 - A. Discomfort or feeling of irritation
 - B. Redness
 - C. Watery or pus-like drainage
 - D. Eyelid swelling
 - E. Itching and tearing
 - F. Crusting discharge that can mat the eyelashes together

- III. **The client/caregiver can list measures to prevent spread of the disease.**
 - A. Wash hands (with soap and water) frequently, especially after touching eyes.
 - B. Do not share washcloths, towels, eye drops, tissues, make-up, or pillowcases.
 - C. Wash items such as towels in hot water and separate from others.

NRS
DATE INITIAL

--	--

- D. Discard cotton balls, gauze, or tissues properly.
- E. Avoid smoke or other known items that cause irritation or allergic reactions.
- F. Keep a child home from school and away from other children as directed by the physician.

- IV. **The client/caregiver can list measures that relieve symptoms.**
 - A. Cleanse eyelids and lashes frequently.
 - B. Apply warm or cold compresses.
 - C. Use acetaminophen or ibuprofen as directed by physician for discomfort.
 - D. Take medication/eye ointments as ordered.
 - E. The physician may order antiallergy medication (in pill form) if the child has allergic conjunctivitis.

REFERENCES

Cohen, B. J., & Taylor, J. J. (2005). *Memmler's the human body in health and disease* (10th ed.). Philadelphia: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins.

Perry, A., & Potter, P. (2006). *Clinical nursing skills & technique*. St. Louis: Mosby Inc.

Timby, B. K., & Smith, N. C. (2003). *Introductory medical-surgical nursing* (8th ed.). Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Williams & Wilkins.