

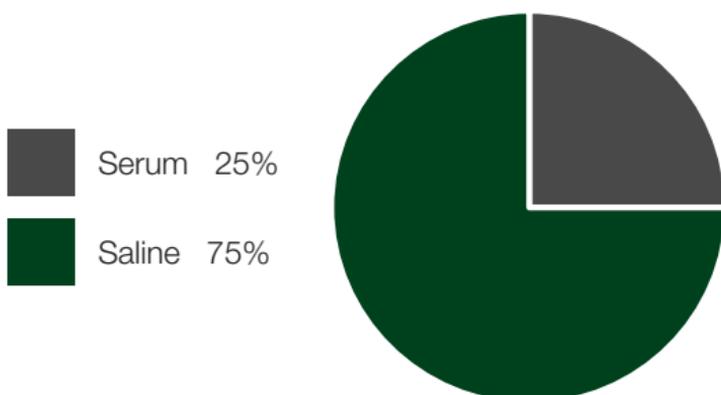
Serum Eye Drops



Information
for Patients

This leaflet provides information about serum eye drops. It explains how they are collected, prepared, transported, stored, used, and how best to manage the supply of your drops.

What are serum eye drops?



No chemicals (e.g. preservatives or antibiotics) are added to serum eye drops.

Your doctor will have explained the reasons why you need to use serum eye drops, and potential risks associated with them.

Although there are differences, serum is a close natural tear substitute. Serum is the liquid part of the blood – like plasma, but without the clotting factors.

Serum eye drops have been in use in New Zealand, and many other parts of the world, for many years. Serum eye drops are classified as a Section 29 (unapproved) medicine. The Blood Service is required to pass details of your prescription to the Ministry of Health.

Autologous and allogeneic drops

Serum eye drops may be made from either your own blood (autologous) or someone else's (allogeneic). Though autologous drops are the usual option, sometimes it is better to use drops that have been prepared from someone else's blood. Your doctor will have explained to you why one or other choice is being made.

How serum eye drops are prepared?

In order to make these drops, first, blood is collected. Then it is allowed to clot, and the serum is separated. The serum is then processed, tested and packaged.

One autologous blood donation is sufficient to make a six month supply.

What do my serum eye drops look like?

Serum eye drops come in a single use vial as shown below.



30 vials (for 1 month) will be packed in each storage box.



Picking up your serum eye drops

You, or whoever is going to collect on your behalf, will need to provide identification when picking up your drops. We may ask for details such as your name, address, or prescription. If you have your eye drops delivered to you, these checks will be performed over the phone.

It is best that you contact us in advance, so that a suitable day and time for pick up / delivery can be arranged. Please note that same day pick up / overnight delivery may not always be possible.

You will be given up to **three months'** supply of eye drops at a time. Please note that in some cases, if your eye drops are close to expiry, we will only be able to dispense eye drops to you which will not expire within the time period of issue.

Transporting serum eye drops

Your eye drops will be packed in a transport box which contains dry ice. Please refer to the sticker on the transport box for information about hazards, and how to handle and dispose of the dry ice. You should keep transport time to a minimum to make sure your drops stay as cold as possible.

Please keep the transport box and bring it with you when you next collect your eye drops, so that we can re-use it. If you have your eye drops delivered, we can arrange with a courier to have the transport box collected from you and brought back to us.

Storing serum eye drops

Your eye drops **MUST be stored in a freezer and only thawed one vial at a time.** Frozen, the eye drops can be stored for up to 6 months from the date of preparation. This reduces the risk of bacteria growing in the drops. Remember that there are no preservatives used in the manufacturing process.

Thawing serum eye drops for use

When required for use, thaw an individual vial by placing it at room temperature and leaving it to defrost naturally. Once defrosted keep it in a normal refrigerator. The thawed vial can be used for **up to twenty-four hours** but then must be discarded.

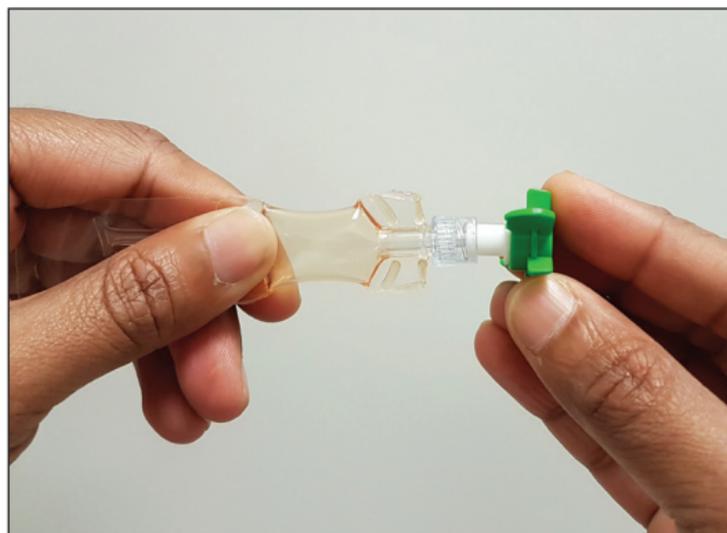
What if I'm going away?

When you travel it is strongly recommended that the eye drop vials be kept chilled with an icepack in a small cooler until you can place them in a freezer. All other vials must stay frozen in your home freezer.

Opening vials

The vials are opened by placing the green opening tool onto the white cap of the vial and twisting as shown in the picture.

Replace the white cap when you have finished using the drops each time.



Tips for use

- Bacteria normally live on our skin, eyelashes and on the surface of our eyes. Avoid touching the dispenser against any part of your eyes / eyelids. This will minimize the chance of bacterial contamination.



- Use the drops as advised by your doctor.
- Take all other regular prescribed medication.
- The drops are for your use alone and must not be shared with another person.

If you have any questions about the use / dosage of your eye drops, please contact your doctor.

My serum eye drops have expired, can I still use them?

The expiry date of your eye drops will be indicated on the label. Expired eye drops **MUST** be discarded and should not be used beyond expiration. Eye drops must not be used more than twenty-four hours after the vial has been thawed.

Need more serum eye drops?

A week before your three months' supply of drops is about to run out, you will need to arrange with your local dispensing site to pick up more drops / have more drops delivered to you. This can be done by e-mail, text, or phone. Please refer to the contact card provided to you for the contact details of your local pick up / delivery site. When making a phone call to arrange pick up / delivery, please ensure you ask for the dispensing scientist, and clearly state your full name.

The dispensing scientist will check that:

- There is enough available for three months' supply (you will be informed if a partial dispense will be necessary)
- Your prescription is in date and contains all of the necessary information.

Please note that if, at the time you contact us to order more eye drops, your prescription is not valid, it is your responsibility to arrange for a new prescription to be sent to NZBS, as we cannot legally dispense eye drops to you without a valid prescription.

How will I know when my eye drops are about to run out?

When your current batch is getting close to expiry / running out, your dispensing scientist will put a sticker on top of the transport box as a reminder. However, if at any stage, you are unsure how many vials you have left, please do not hesitate to contact your local dispensing scientist using the contact details on the card provided.

Managing the supply of serum eye drops

Each batch of autologous serum eye drops from a blood donation lasts six months. It can take up to one month to prepare a batch of autologous eye drops from blood collection, to pick up / delivery. So it is really important that you stay on top of managing your own supply, as any gaps in the process can create significant delays.

To ensure a continuous supply is available to you, you should keep track of how many vials you have used, and when they expire. You are also responsible for managing your own prescriptions, requests for collection and consents.

Allogeneic SED

- A consent form is required for first time use. A new form must be completed every 12 months.
- Prescriptions are only valid for three months' supply. A new prescription must be sent by your Eye doctor or a doctor who has had this task delegated.
- Turnaround time for supply is up to 7 days.
- 3 months' of drops will be supplied to you at a time.

Autologous SED

- A consent form is required for first time use. A new form must be completed every 12 months.
- Prescriptions are only valid for three months' supply. A new prescription must be sent by your Eye doctor or a doctor who has had this task delegated.

- A new blood collection is required every six months. NZBS will contact you to make an appointment for blood collection.
- The time needed to make and supply the eye drops is up to 1 month.
- 3 months' of drops will be supplied to you at a time.

Adverse Reactions and Medical Queries

Please contact your doctor if you have an adverse reaction, which are rare, or any medical queries concerning your drops.

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