Medication can be given in the eye using drops or ointment.

In addition to any medication-specific instructions, follow these principles when putting medication in the eye:

- When giving medication to only one eye, be careful to put the medication into the correct eye. Remember that if the child is facing you, the child’s eye on your left side is actually the child’s right eye, so be sure you know which eye is the correct eye.

- Put on gloves. You should wear gloves if:
  - the skin on your hands is cut, scabbed or broken;
  - your hands might come in contact with the child’s mucous;
  - the medication to be given should not touch your skin; or
  - you feel more comfortable wearing gloves to apply the medication.

- Clean the child’s eye with a clean tissue, wiping from the inner corner to the outside edge.

- Have the child sit or lie down. Older children can usually sit for eye drop medication. You may find it easier to have a young child lie down.

- With one hand, make a pocket in the child’s lower eyelid.

- Using your other hand, put the medication in the pocket of the child’s lower eyelid. Do not drop directly into the eye.

- Very often children blink when getting eye drops. If the drop completely misses his eye, you can give the dose again. If any amount gets in the eye, don’t give another dose.

- If giving an ointment, start from the inner part of the eye that is closest to the child’s nose and go outward toward the child’s ear.