Cost-effective Switching Guidance:
Ocular Lubricants prescribed for *regular use* for *Chronic* Dry Eye conditions as per the Dry Eye Pathway for Tear Film Disorder in Primary Care

See also Key Message Bulletin 44: *Management of Dry Eyes*

Otherwise consider whether Self Care and OTC purchase are appropriate

Product for switching	Cost (unit)	Formulary Choice / Drug Tariff January 2023 best price option	Cost (unit)
CARBOMER:			
10g multi-dose tubes			
Preservative-containing			
0.2% strength (Formulary recommended strength)			
Artelac Nighttime 0.2% Eye Gel	£2.96	Aacomer 0.2% Gel **OR** AaCarb Carbomer 0.2% Gel **OR** Clinitas Carbomer 0.2% Gel	£1.34 £1.39 £1.49
Carbomer 0.2% (Medicom Healthcare)	£2.80		
Carbomer '980' 0.2% Eye Drops (GelTears 0.2% Ophthalmic Gel)	£2.80		
Ocufresh 0.2% Lubricating Eye Gel	£2.80		
Lumecare 0.2% Eye Gel	£1.55		
Non-Formulary strengths/products			
Carbomer 974P 0.25% Eye Gel (Liquivisc)	£4.50	Aacomer 0.2% Gel **OR** AaCarb Carbomer 0.2% Gel **OR** Clinitas Carbomer 0.2% Gel	£1.34 £1.39 £1.49
Containing Biodegradable Preservative:			
Xailin 0.2% Eye Gel	£3.35	Evolve Carbomer 980 (0.2% Carbomer) PF	£2.80
Preservative-Free (PF) and Single Use (Disposable) Unit Dose (UD) Vials			
Carbomer '980' 0.2% Eye Drops PF (0.6ml) UD (Viscotears)	£5.42 (30)	Evolve Carbomer 980 (0.2% Carbomer) PF	£2.80
Ocu-Lube Carbomer 0.2% Eye Gel PF (0.6ml) UD	£5.25 (30)		

Product for switching	Cost (unit)	Formulary Choice / Drug Tariff January 2023 best price option	Cost (unit)
CARMELLOSE:			
10ml multi-dose bottles			
Preservative-containing			
0.5% strength			
Alissa Healthcare Carmellose 0.5% Eye Drops	£7.49	AaqEye 0.5% **OR** Aqualube 0.5%	£1.73 £1.73
Medicom Healthcare Carmellose 0.5% Eye Drops	£7.49		
Carmize 0.5% Eye Drops	£7.49		
Lumecare Advance Carmellose 0.5%	£6.14		
Tearvis 0.5% Eye Drops	£7.49		
Optho-Lique 0.5%	£3.73		
Optive 0.5%	£7.49		

Optive Plus 0.5%	£7.49		
Tearvis 0.5%	£8.49		
1% strength			
Carmize (Carmellose) 1% Eye Drops	£8.49	**Not on Formulary** The following PF recommended products are more cost-effective; Eyeaze Carmellose 1% PF **OR** VIZcellose 1% PF	
Optho-Lique Forte 1% Eye Drops	£3.97		
Tearvis 1% Eye Drops	£8.49		£1.81
Aqualube Forte 1%	£2.88		£1.82
Containing Biodegradable Preservative:			
0.5% strength			
Optive 0.5% Carmellose Eye Drops (10ml)	£7.49	Eyeaze Carmellose 0.5% PF **OR** VIZcellose 0.5% PF	£2.87 £2.88
Optive Plus 0.5% Carmellose Eye Drops	£7.49		
Preservative-Free (PF) Formulations, including Single Use (Disposable) Unit Dose (UD) Vials and Total Daily Dose (DD) Vials (Re-closable and sterile for 12 hours)			
0.5% strength			
Cellusan (Carmellose) Light 0.5% Eye Drops PF	£4.80 (10ml)	Eyeaze Carmellose 0.5% PF **OR** VIZcellose 0.5% PF	£2.87 (10ml) £2.88 (10ml)
Evolve Carmellose 0.5% Eye Drops PF	£4.99 (10ml)		
Ocu-Lube Carmellose 0.5% Eye Drops PF	£7.49 (10ml)		
VizuXL 0.5% Gel PF	£7.49 (10ml)		
Alissa Carmellose 0.5% PF Eye Drops UD	£5.75 (30)		
Carmellose Sodium Eye Drops 0.5% PF (0.4ml) UD	£4.80 (30)		
Celluvisc (Carmellose) 0.5% Eye Drops PF (0.4ml) UD	£4.80 (30) £15.53 (90)		
Xailin Fresh 0.5% Carmellose Eye Drops PF (0.4ml) UD	£3.95 (30)		
Carmize (Carmellose) 0.5% Eye Drops PF (0.4ml) DD	£5.75 (30) £15.53 (90)		
Ocu-Lube Carmellose 0.5% Eye Drops PF (0.4ml) DD	£5.65 (30)		
1% strength			
Cellusan (Carmellose) 1% Eye Drops PF	£4.80 (10ml)	Eyeaze Carmellose 1% PF **OR** VIZcellose 1% PF	£1.81 (10ml) £1.82 (10ml)
Ocu-Lube Carmellose 1% Eye Drops PF	£7.49 (10ml)		
Celluvisc (Carmellose) 1% Eye Drops PF (0.4ml) UD	£3.00 (30) £10.99 (60)		
Carmize (Carmellose) 1% Eye Drops (0.4ml) DD	£3.00 (30) £6.00 (60)		

Product for switching	Cost (unit)	Formulary Choice / Drug Tariff January 2023 best price option	Cost (unit)
HYDROXYPROPYL GUAR: Non Formulary			
10ml multi-dose bottles			
Preservative-containing			
Systane Balance Eye Drops	£7.49	**Not on Formulary** Check that the patient has tried locally recommended choices as per the **Dry Eye Pathway**	
Systane Eye Drops	£4.66		
Systane Gel Drops	£7.49		
Systane Ultra Eye Drops	£6.69		
Tearmos	£4.50		
Single Use (Disposable) Unit Dose (UD) Vials – Preservative-Free (PF)			
Preservative-Free (PF)			
Systane Eye Drops PF (0.8ml) UD	£4.66 (28)	**Not on Formulary** Check that the patient has tried locally recommended choices as per the **Dry Eye Pathway**	
Systane Ultra Guar Eye Drops PF (0.7ml) UD	£6.69 (30)		

Product for switching	Cost (unit)	Formulary Choice / Drug Tariff January 2023 best price option	Cost (unit)
HYPROMELLOSE:			
10ml multi-dose bottles			
Following the removal of generic Hypromellose 0.3% from part VIIIA of the Drug Tariff prescriptions can no longer be sent by electronic prescription. The removal also means that if prescribed generically prescriptions for Hypromellose are not subject to NHS price controls, this can result in unexpected high costs to the NHS. There are several **brands** of Hypromellose which can be prescribed, these are now listed in the appliances section of the Drug Tariff. Many of these brands are manufactured by small companies therefore there are concerns around stock availability with the increased ordering pressure. The Medicines Optimisation Team have taken this into consideration when recommending cost-effective brands to prescribe.			
Preservative-containing			
0.3% strength (Formulary-recommended)			
Tears Natureale II	£2.70 (15ml)	**PRESCRIBE BY BRAND** AaproMel 0.3% Hypromellose **OR** AacuLose Hypromellose 0.3% **OR** Lumecare Hypromellose 0.3% **OR** Ocufresh 0.3% Hypromellose **OR** Vizulize Hypromellose 0.3%	 £0.69 £0.71 £1.71 £1.50 £1.25
Xailin Hydrate	£4.86		
Mandanol 0.3% Eye Drops	£1.33		

Non-Formulary strengths/products			
(Artelac) Hypromellose 0.32% Eye Drops	£4.99	**PRESCRIBE BY BRAND** AaproMel 0.3% Hypromellose **OR** AacuLose Hypromellose 0.3% **OR** Lumecare Hypromellose 0.3% **OR** Ocufresh 0.3% Hypromellose **OR** Vizulize Hypromellose 0.3%	£0.69 £0.71 £1.71 £1.50 £1.25
AacuLose Hypromellose 0.5%	£0.99		
AaproMel 0.5%	£0.97		
TearDew 0.5%	£1.17		
Preservative-Free (PF) and Single Use (Disposable) Unit Dose (UD) Vials			
0.3% strength (Formulary-recommended strength)			
Alissa Healthcare Hypromellose 0.3% PF	£5.75 (10ml)	Evolve Hypromellose 0.3% PF	£1.98 (10ml)
Hypromol 0.3% Eye Drops PF	£4.55 (10ml)		
Ocu-Lube 0.3% Eye Drops PF	£5.75 (10ml)		
PF Drops Hypromellose 0.3%	£5.75 (10ml)		
Tear-Lac Hypromellose Eye Drops 0.3% PF	£5.80 (10ml)		
Hydromoor 0.3% Eye Drops PF (0.4ml) UD	£5.75 (30)		
AddTear Hypromellose 0.3% PF (0.5ml) UD	£4.19 (30)		
Lumecare Singles Hypromellose PF 0.3% (0.5ml) UD	£4.71 (30)		
Non-Formulary strength/Product			
Artelac Single Dose Unit - Hypromellose 0.32% Eye Drops PF (0.5ml) UD	£16.95 (30)	Evolve Hypromellose 0.3% PF (10ml)	£1.98 (10ml)

Product for switching	**Cost (unit)**	**Formulary Choice / Drug Tariff January 2023 best price option**	**Cost (unit)**
POLYVINYL ALCOHOL:			
Multi-dose bottles			
Liquifilm Tears 1.4% Eye Drops	£1.93 (15ml)	Sno Tears 1.4% Tears Eye Drops	£1.06 (10ml)
Single Use (Disposable) Unit Dose (UD) Vials – Preservative-Free (PF)			
Liquifilm Tears 1.4% Eye Drops PF (0.4ml) UD	£5.35 (30)	**PF formulations - Not on Formulary** Sno Tears 1.4% Tears Eye Drops	£1.06 (10ml)
Refresh Opthalmic PF (0.4ml) UD	£2.25 (30)		

Product for switching	Cost (unit)	Formulary Choice / Drug Tariff January 2023 best price option	Cost (unit)
SODIUM HYALURONATE: 0.2% strength (Formulary-recommended strength)			
10ml multi-dose bottles			
AaqEye HA 0.2%	£3.97	Blink Intensive Tears 0.2% Eye Drops	£2.97
Xailin HA 0.2% Eye Drops	£7.54		
Non-Formulary strengths/products			
Vizulize 0.1% Dry Eye Drops	*No NHS Price* Self Care / OTC purchase	Blink Intensive Tears 0.2% Eye Drops	£2.97
Active HA 0.1% Eye Drops	£.3.99		
AaqEye HA 0.1% Eye Drops	£5.19		
Preservative-Free (PF) Formulations including Total Daily Dose (DD) Vials (Re-closable and sterile for 12 hours) and Single Use (Disposable) Unit Dose (UD) Vials			
Clinitas Multi 0.2% Eye Drops PF	£5.99 (10ml)	HydraMed 0.2% Eye Drops PF (10ml) **OR** Eyeaze 0.2% Eye Drops PF **OR** Xailin Plus 0.2% Eye Drops PF	£5.60 (10ml) £4.15 (10ml) £5.60 (10ml)
VIZhyal 0.2% PF	£4.10 (10ml)		
Xailin Plus 0.2% HA PF	£5.60 (10ml)		
Evolve HA 0.2% Eye Drops PF	£5.99 (10ml)		
Hy-Opti 0.2% Eye Drops PF	£4.78 (12ml)		
Hylo-Forte 0.2% Eye Drops PF	£9.50 (10ml)		
Ocu-Lube HA 0.2% PF	£7.90 (10ml)		
Artelac Splash 0.2% Eye Drops PF(0.5ml) UD	£7.00 (30) £11.20 (60)		
Blink Intensive Tears PF (0.4ml) UD	£2.97 (20)		
Ocusan 0.2% Eye Drops PF (0.5ml) DD	£5.64 (20)		
Clinitas 0.2% PF (0.5ml) DD	£5.59 (30)		
HydraMed 0.2% PF (0.5ml) DD	£5.60 (30)		
Non-Formulary strengths/products:			
Preservative free multi-dose bottles			
Hylo-Dual (Sodium hyaluronate 0.05% with Ectoin 2%) eye drops PF	£9.95 (10ml)	HydraMed 0.2% Eye Drops PF **OR**	£5.60 (10ml)
ClinOptic HA 0.1% Eye Drops PF	£4.15 (10ml)	Eyeaze 0.2% Eye Drops PF **OR**	£4.15 (10ml)

Eyeaze 0.1% Eye Drops PF	£4.15 (10ml)	Xailin Plus 0.2% Eye Drops PF	£5.60 (10ml)
Hycosan 0.1% Eye Drops PF	*No NHS Price* (7.5ml)		
Hylo-Care Sodium Hyaluronate 0.1% (plus Dexpanthenol 2%) Eye Drops PF	£10.30 (10ml)		
Hylo-Tear 0.1% Eye Drops PF	£8.50 (10ml)		
Hy-Opti 0.1% Eye Drops PF	£4.78 (12ml)		
Ocu-Lube HA 0.1% PF	£8.00 (10ml)		
Viscotears HA 0.1% PF Eye Drops	£5.10 (10ml)		
VisuXL 0.1% Eye Drops PF	£10.37 (10ml)		
VIZhyal 0.1% Eye Drops PF	£4.10 (10ml)		
Xailin Tears 0.1% HA PF	£5.10 (10ml)		
Aeon Repair 0.15% Eye Drops PF	£4.00 (10ml)		
Hyabak 0.15% Eye Drops PF	£7.99 (10ml)		
PF Drops Sodium Hyaluronate 0.15% Eye Drops PF	£6.99 (10ml)		
Thealoz Duo 0.15% / 3% (Sodium Hyaluronate & Trehalose) Eye Drops PF	£8.99 (10ml)	HydraMed 0.2% Eye Drops PF **OR**	£5.60 (10ml)
Vismed Multi PF 0.18%	£7.07 (10ml)	Eyeaze 0.2% Eye Drops PF **OR**	£4.15 (10ml)
Viscotears HA Plus PF (0.2% Sodium Hyaluronate with 0.2% Hypromellose)	£5.70 (10ml)	Xailin Plus 0.2% Eye Drops PF	£5.60 (10ml)
Viscotears Treha Duo PF (0.25% Sodium Hyaluronate with 2% Trehalose)	£6.29 (10ml)		
Viscotears Tri Action PF (0.2% Sodium Hyaluronate 0.2% with Trehalose 2% with Sacha inchi seed oil 0.1%)	£8.99 (10ml)		
Evolve Revive (Sodium hyaluronate 0.2% with Carbomer 980 0.2% and Glycerol) Eye Drops PF	£8.99 (10ml)		
ClinOptic HA 0.21% Eye Drops PF	£4.15 (10ml)		
Aeon Protect Plus 0.3% Eye Drops PF	£7.80 (10ml)		
Hylo-Fresh 0.03% Eye Drops PF	£4.95 (10ml)		
Vismed Gel Multi Eye Drops 0.3% PF	£8.25 (10ml)		
Xailin Intense 0.3% HA PF	£6.10 (10ml)		
Clinitas Multi 0.4% Eye Drops PF (10ml)	£6.99 (10ml)		
Eyeaze 0.4% Eye Drops PF	£4.15 (10ml)		

Eyezin XL 0.4% Eye Drops PF (10ml)	£6.99 (10ml)	HydraMed 0.2% Eye Drops PF **OR**	£5.60 (10ml)
HydraMed Forte 0.4% Eye Drops PF	£5.60 (10ml)	Eyeaze 0.2% Eye Drops PF **OR**	£4.15 (10ml)
PF Drops Sodium Hyaluronate 0.4% (10ml)	£6.99 (10ml)	Xailin Plus 0.2% Eye Drops PF	£5.60 (10ml)
VIZhyal 0.4% Eye Drops PF (10ml) - The recommended dose of this product is 2 drops which d*oubles the cost*	£4.10 (10ml)		
Single Use (Disposable) Unit Dose (UD) Vials			
VisuXL 0.1% Eye Drops PF (0.33ml) UD	£10.30 (30)	HydraMed 0.2% Eye Drops PF **OR**	£5.60 (10ml)
Thealoz Duo UD 0.15% / 3% (Sodium Hyaluronate & Trehalose) PF (0.4ml) UD	£7.18 (30)	Eyeaze 0.2% Eye Drops PF **OR**	£4.15 (10ml)
Thealoz Duo Gel 0.15% / 3% / 0.25% (Sodium Hyaluronate, Trehalose & Carbomer) Gel PF (0.4g) UD	£6.94 (30)	Xailin Plus 0.2% Eye Drops PF	£5.60 (10ml)
Vismed 0.18% Eye Drops PF (0.3ml) UD	£5.29 (20)		
Vismed 0.3% Gel PF (0.45ml) UD	£6.21 (20)		
HydraMed Forte 0.4% Eye Drops PF (0.5ml) UD	£5.60 (30)		
Total Daily Dose (DD) Vials (Re-closable and sterile for 12 hours)			
Clinitas 0.4% Eye Drops (0.5ml) DD £5.70 (30)		HydraMed 0.2% Eye Drops PF **OR** Eyeaze 0.2% Eye Drops PF **OR** Xailin Plus 0.2% Eye Drops PF	£5.60 (10ml) £4.15 (10ml) £5.60 (10ml)
Containing Biodegradable Preservative:			
Aeon Protect 0.3% Eye Drops	£4.60 (10ml)	HydraMed 0.2% Eye Drops PF **OR**	£5.60 (10ml)
Artelac Rebalance 0.15% Eye Drops	£4.00 (10ml)	Eyeaze 0.2% Eye Drops PF **OR**	£4.15 (10ml)
Oftaox 0.25% Eye Drops	£5.50 (8ml)	Xailin Plus 0.2% Eye Drops PF	£5.60 (10ml)
Optive Fusion 0.1% / 0.5% (Sodium Hyaluronate & Carmellose) Eye Drops	£7.49 (10ml)		
Oxyal 0.15% Eye Drops	£4.15 (10ml)		

OTHER Eye Drops – Non-Formulary		
Cationorm (Oil Emulsion) Eye Drops PF	£8.70 (10ml)	Review use where possible Check that patient has tried preferred choices as per Dry Eye Pathway
EvoTears (Perfluorohexyloctane) Eye Drops PF	£9.95 (3ml)	

Ilube Eye Drops 5% (Acetylcysteine)	£44.44 (10ml)	
Tearmos (Polyethylene glycol 400 & Propylene glycol) (10ml)	£4.50 (10ml)	

Product for switching	Cost (unit)	Formulary Choice / Drug Tariff January 2023 best price option	Cost (unit)
PARAFFIN-Based Eye Ointment			
HydraMed Night *Sensitive* PF (contains WSP, LP, Vitamin A)	£4.96 (5g)	Only if *proven* hypersensitivity to lanolin (wool fat) – otherwise issue HydraMed Night PF (5g)	
Hylo Night (formerly VitA-POS) PF (contains Retinol palmitate with White Soft Paraffin, Light liquid paraffin, Liquid Paraffin and Wool fat)	£2.75 (5g)	HydraMed Night PF (contains 57.3% WSP, 42.5% LP, 0.2% Wool alcohols and Vitamin A) ***OR*** Xailin Night Eye Ointment PF (contains WSP, White mineral oil and Lanolin alcohols)	£2.32 (5g) £2.63 (5g)
Lacri-lube eye ointment (contains Liquid Paraffin with White Soft Paraffin and Wool alcohols) - *long term supply issues / out of stock*	£2.05 (3.5g)		
Simple eye ointment (contains Liquid Paraffin 10%, Wool fat 10%, Yellow soft paraffin 80%)	£53.28 (4g) (DT Jan 2023)		

Product for switching	Cost (unit)	Formulary Choice / Drug Tariff January 2023 best price option	Cost (unit)
SODIUM CHLORIDE Eye Ointment – Non-Formulary			
Sodium Chloride 5% Eye Ointment PF (Special)	£137.83 (5g)	Preferably review use and change to another Formulary-recommended	

		lubricant as per **Dry Eye Pathway** **Otherwise use:** Sodium Chloride 0.9% (AddLube®) Eye Drops UD PF	£22.50 (5g)