

Chloramphenicol

(Chloramphenicol*, Chlorogen*, Chloromycetin Ophthalmic Ointment*, Chloromycetin Redidrops*, Kemicetine*, Minims*, Optrex*) POM

- **Formulations**

Injectable: 1 g powder for reconstitution. Ophthalmic: 1% ointment; 0.5% solution. Oral: 250 mg capsules.

- **Action**

Time-dependent antimicrobial that acts by binding to the 50S ribosomal subunit of susceptible bacteria, preventing bacterial protein synthesis.

- **Use**

- Broad spectrum of activity against Gram-positive (e.g. *Streptococcus*, *Staphylococcus*), Gram-negative (e.g. *Brucella*, *Salmonella*, *Haemophilus*) and obligate anaerobic bacteria (e.g. *Clostridioides spp.*, *Bacteroides fragilis*).
- Other sensitive organisms include *Chlamydia*, *Mycoplasma* (unreliable in treatment of ocular mycoplasmosis) and *Rickettsia*.

Resistant organisms include *Nocardia* and *Mycobacterium*. Acquired resistance may occur in Enterobacteriaceae. High lipid solubility makes it suitable for the treatment of intraocular infections. It will also access the CNS. However, due to concerns of resistance development and human toxicity, systemic use should be restricted to life-threatening infections resistant to other antimicrobials (e.g. methicillin-resistant staphylococci). Patients with hepatic or renal dysfunction may need adjustment to the dose. Use with caution or avoid in nursing bitches or queens as crosses into milk.

[More +](#)

- **DOSES**

Classified as category C (Caution) by the EMA. See Appendix for [Guidelines for responsible antibiotic use](#)

- **Dogs**
 - Ophthalmic: 1 drop q4–8h; ointment q8–12h.
 - Systemic: 40–50 mg/kg i.v., i.m., s.c., p.o. q8h.
 - CNS infections: 10–15 mg/kg p.o. q4–6h is recommended in some texts.
- **Cats**
 - Ophthalmic: 1 drop q4–8h; ointment q8–12h.
 - Systemic: 10–20 mg/kg slow i.v., i.m., s.c., p.o. q12h.