Eyelid Infection
(Blepharitis)

Blepharitis is a swelling and irritation (*inflammation*) of the eyelids. It may be caused by an allergic reaction or a germ (*bacterial*) infection. While asleep, your sores may drain and glue your lashes together. Your eyelids may itch, burn, swell, and may lose their lashes. These will grow back. Your eyes may become sensitive. Blepharitis may recur and need repeated treatment. It may be associated with seborrhea of the scalp and eyebrows. If so, treatment of this may help.

HOME CARE INSTRUCTIONS

- Wash your eyelids with warm salt water in the morning and at night.
  - Carefully remove the scales from the eyelids daily. To do this, use a cotton tipped swab. *There may be bleeding after you remove the scales.*
  - Use a clean towel each time you dry your eyelids. Keep towel away from other family members.
- To ease discomfort and help healing, apply a warm washcloth to eyelids several times a day for 10 to 20 minutes.
- Do not rub your eyes nor wear eye makeup until healed.
- Only take over-the-counter or prescription medicines for pain, discomfort, or fever as directed by your caregiver. Antibiotic and anti-inflammatory drops may help if conservative measures are ineffective.

SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL CARE IF:

- You have pain in the eye.
- Your eyesight has changed.
- You have an unexplained oral temperature above 102° F (38.9° C) develops, or as your caregiver suggests.
- You have any new problems (*symptoms*), such as swelling of the eyelids or around the orbit.
- Your symptoms continue for longer than 3 days or become worse.

MAKE SURE YOU:

- Understand these instructions.
- Will watch your condition.
- Will get help right away if you are not doing well or get worse.

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