

## **APPENDIX V: Selecting an Oral or Topical Antiviral Agent**

In select cases, the choice between an oral or topical antiviral agent may be guided by the following:

### **Preferred Treatment: Oral Antiviral**

Patient physically unable to use gel or drops (i.e., patients with intention tremor or arthritis).

Contact lens wearers.

Pediatric patients' refractory to topical antiviral.

Patients that require lengthy treatment antiviral agents (greater than 21 days).

Patients with preexisting ocular surface disease who may be more susceptible to ocular surface toxicity.

Prophylactic treatment after ocular surgery.

### **Preferred Treatment: Topical Antiviral**

Patients with renal impairment (all oral antiviral agents are nephrotoxic).

Elderly patients ( $\geq 65$  years old) with renal impairment or when renal function is unknown at the time of drug administration.

Pregnant patients (all oral antivirals are Category B).

Nursing mothers — acyclovir was demonstrated in breast milk of nursing mothers taking valacyclovir as well as acyclovir. (No studies on famciclovir.)