




## Quick Reference for Management of Lice, Scabies and Bed Bugs

<h3>LICE</h3> 	<h3>SCABIES</h3> 	<h3>BED BUGS</h3> 
<p><b>Facts:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can be seen without a microscope, visual diagnosis</li> <li>• Nits (lice eggs) must be laid by live lice</li> <li>• Head lice and body lice are different</li> <li>• Head lice nits adhere to strands of hair</li> <li>• Body lice nits are found on or near seams of clothing</li> </ul>	<p><b>Facts:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Microscopic, diagnosed by performing a skin scraping</li> <li>• Mites die if not in contact with skin for 3 days or more</li> <li>• Female mites lay eggs under the skin</li> <li>• Mites do not transmit disease</li> </ul>	<p><b>Facts:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can be seen without microscope, visual detection</li> <li>• Do not live on hosts but visit to feed</li> <li>• Most active at night</li> <li>• Mites do not transmit disease</li> </ul>
<p><b>Signs &amp; Symptoms:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Itching</li> <li>• Sores on scalp or body caused by scratching</li> </ul>	<p><b>Signs &amp; Symptoms:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intense itching, especially at night</li> <li>• Tunnel-like line of skin eruptions or bumps in skin folds</li> <li>• Dermatitis, scaling</li> </ul>	<p><b>Signs &amp; Symptoms:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bed bugs can cause an allergic reaction similar to a mosquito bite (red bump or flat welt)</li> <li>• Bites may be in a linear or clustered pattern</li> </ul>
<p><b>Appearance:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Size of a rice grain</li> <li>• 1-2mm long and grayish brown in colour</li> <li>• Tiny, wingless insects that move quickly</li> <li>• Nits (eggs) can be mistaken for dandruff</li> </ul>	<p><b>Appearance:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1/3mm long, microscopic</li> <li>• The bites can be mistakenly diagnosed as Psoriasis or other skin condition</li> </ul>	<p><b>Appearance:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Size of an apple seed</li> <li>• Flat oval bodies</li> <li>• White before feeding. After feeding it is bloated and reddish-brown</li> </ul>
<p><b>Location:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Look for nits, nymphs (immature lice), lice (mature insect)</li> <li>• Commonly found around ears, forehead, nape of neck</li> <li>• They lie close to the scalp</li> <li>• Body lice found on clothing and bedding, usually come to skin only to feed</li> </ul>	<p><b>Location:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Look for papules, vesicles, or tiny linear burrows around finger webs, anterior surfaces of wrists, elbows, anterior axillary folds, belt line, thighs, and external genitalia (men); nipples, abdomen, and the lower portion of the buttocks (women)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Location:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Look for bites on exposed skin: face, neck, arms, hands</li> <li>• Dark spotting and staining on sheets, pillow, clothing or other items in close contact with the body (feces and blood from crushed mites)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Mode of Transmission:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>DIRECT</b> contact with louse, cannot jump or fly person to person</li> <li>• Head to head or direct body contact</li> <li>• Sharing infested hats, scarves, combs, pillows, wigs, clothing, bedding, towels</li> </ul>	<p><b>Mode of Transmission:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>DIRECT</b> contact with mite via infested skin or transfer from bed linens, clothing</li> <li>• <b>Norwegian Scabies</b> is a more highly contagious form of scabies due to the large number of mites</li> </ul>	<p><b>Mode of Transmission:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>DIRECT</b> contact with mite, cannot jump but can enter your home on clothing, bags</li> <li>• Patient with a bed bug infestation may arrive in hospital with a bed bug attached to clothing or any belongings (e.g. walker, wheelchair)</li> </ul>



## Isolation:

- **Contact Precautions** for 24 hours after effective treatment
- Bag patient's clothing /belongings
- Provide patient with clean clothes and linens

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- **Routine Practices** use Point of Care Risk Assessment to determine if PPE is required during care until patient belongings are bagged and inspection complete
- Inspect patient and belongings
- Inspect for bites
- Provide clean clothes and linens
- Contact Environmental Services if bed bugs identified

## Treatment:

- Apply treatment as per physician's order
- Follow product instructions for use
- Manually remove nits
- If live lice found after treatment, repeat

## Treatment:

- Apply treatment as per physician's order
- Follow product instructions for use
- Next day, do a cleansing bath and change all bed linens
- Norwegian scabies require two treatments 7 days apart

## Treatment:

- No medical treatment required
- Creams with corticosteroids and oral antihistamines may be advised in more severe cases

## Nits (eggs)



## Linear burrowing



## Bed bug bites

