

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

#### LICE



#### Facts:

- Can be seen without a microscope, visual diagnosis
- Nits (lice eggs) must be laid by live lice
- Head lice and body lice are different
- Head lice nits adhere to strands of hair
- Body lice nits are found on or near seams of clothing

#### Signs & Symptoms:

- Itching
- Sores on scalp or body caused by scratching

#### Appearance:

- Size of a rice grain
- 1-2mm long and grayish brown in colour
- Tiny, wingless insects that move quickly
- Nits (eggs) can be mistaken for dandruff

#### Location:

- Look for nits, nymphs (immature lice), lice (mature insect)
- Commonly found around ears, forehead, nape of neck
- · They lie close to the scalp
- Body lice found on clothing and bedding, usually come to skin only to feed

#### **Mode of Transmission:**

- <u>DIRECT</u> contact with louse, cannot jump or fly person to person
- Head to head or direct body contact
- Sharing infested hats, scarves, combs, pillows, wigs, clothing, bedding, towels

#### Isolation:

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

## Treatment:

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

## Treatment:

linens

Isolation:

- · 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

#### SCABIES



#### Facts:

- Microscopic, diagnosed by performing a skin scraping
- Mites die if not in contact with skin for 3 days or more
- Female mites lay eggs under the skin

Intense itching, especially at night

Tunnel-like line of skin eruptions or bumps

The bites can be mistakenly diagnosed as

Look for papules, vesicles, or tiny linear

surfaces of wrists, elbows, anterior axillary

genitalia (men); nipples, abdomen, and the

burrows around finger webs, anterior

folds, belt line, thighs, and external

lower portion of the buttocks (women)

**DIRECT** contact with mite via infested

Norwegian Scabies is a more highly

contagious form of scabies due to the large

Contact Precautions for 24 hours after

Provide patient with clean clothes and

Bag patient's clothing/belongings

skin or transfer from bed linens,

· Mites do not transmit disease

Signs & Symptoms:

in skin folds

Appearance:

Location:

Dermatitis, scaling

Mode of Transmission:

number of mites

effective treatment

clothing

1/3mm long, microscopic

Psoriasis or other skin condition

## BED BUGS



#### Facts:

- Can be seen without microscope, visual detection
- · Do not live on hosts but visit to feed
- · Most active at night
- · Mites do not transmit disease

#### Signs & Symptoms:

- Bed bugs can cause an allergic reaction similar to a mosquito bite (red bump or flat welt)
- Bites may be in a linear or clustered pattern

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#### Appearance:

- · Size of an apple seed
- Flat oval bodies
- White before feeding. After feeding it is bloated and reddishbrown

#### Location:

- Look for bites on exposed skin: face, neck, arms, hands
- Dark spotting and staining on sheets, pillow, clothing or other items in close contact with the body (feces and blood from crushed mites)

#### Mode of Transmission:

- <u>DIRECT</u> contact with mite, cannot jump but can enter your home on clothing, bags
- Patient with a bed bug infestation may arrive in hospital with a bed bug attached to clothing or any belongings (e.g. walker, wheelchair)

#### Isolation:

- Contact Precautions until patient clothing and belonging's bagged and inspection complete
- · Inspect patient and belongings
- Inspect for bites
- Provide clean clothes and linens
- Contact Environmental Services if bed bugs identified

#### 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**

