

Scabies Outbreak Guidance for Facilities

Patient Care:

- Widespread preemptive treatment of all potentially exposed individuals
 - ***Simultaneous***, strict, and widespread treatment of all exposed individuals with topical permethrin 5% and oral ivermectin.
- Provide the most effective treatment, either with topical permethrin or oral ivermectin to potentially exposed individuals.
- Initiation of treatment on the same day for most, if not all, individuals who qualified for treatment.
- Paying special attention to children.
- Contact isolation should be maintained until completion of the second treatment course of their preemptive scabicide treatment.
- Household members and sexual contacts, particularly those who have had prolonged direct skin-to-skin contact with the infested person should receive treatment.
- Both sexual and close personal contacts who have had direct prolonged skin-to-skin contact with an infested person within the preceding month should be examined and treated.

Environmental Control:

- Rooms used by a patient with crusted scabies should be thoroughly cleaned with an appropriate solution and vacuumed after use.
- Bedding and clothing worn or used next to the skin anytime during the 3 days before treatment should be machine washed and dried using the hot water and hot dryer cycles or be dry-cleaned
- Items that cannot be dry-cleaned or laundered can be disinfested by storing in a closed plastic bag for several days to a week.

General Scabies Information:

- All HCWs should wear protective gowns and gloves (contact precautions)
- Close monitoring of infection control measures should continue as long as the outbreak is not under control.
- Scabies mites generally do not survive more than 2 to 3 days away from human skin.
- Children and adults usually can return to child care, school, or work the day after treatment.
- Symptoms may not appear for up to two months after being infested.
- Scabies usually is passed by direct, prolonged skin-to-skin contact with an infested person.
- A person with crusted (Norwegian) scabies can spread the infestation by brief skin-to-skin contact or by exposure to bedding, clothing, or even furniture that he/she has used.
- Follow-up with facility for a period of 6 months to ensure the outbreak is over.

References:

1. <http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/scabies/>
2. Scabies Outbreak in an Intensive Care Unit with 1,659 Exposed Individuals—Key Factors for Controlling the Outbreak, *Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology*, Vol. 30, No. 4 (April 2009), pp. 354-360
3. An Outbreak of Scabies in a Teaching Hospital: Lessons Learned, *Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology*, Vol. 22, No. 1 (January 2001), pp. 13-18