

HEAD LICE AND SCABIES

PRACTICE GUIDELINE[®]

DOCUMENT SUMMARY/KEY POINTS

- All shampoos or lotions used in the treatment of head lice and scabies must be prescribed in the patient's medication chart prior to use.
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is to be worn by staff when administering or applying treatment.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions when using medicated creams and lotions.
- Hospital linen is to be handled in the usual manner and a linen skip is to be placed near the patient bedside for ease of containment of affected linen.

CHANGE SUMMARY

- Document due for mandatory review.
- Replaces SCH document C.4.i.1 ***Parasitic Infestation Control***
- Change in practice in regards to linen handling.
- Highlighting infection prevention control isolation requirements
- Treatment to managed according to Australian Therapeutic Guidelines

READ ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- Ward clinical staff (nursing and medical officers) need to read this document

This document reflects what is currently regarded as safe practice. However, as in any clinical situation, there may be factors which cannot be covered by a single set of guidelines. This document does not replace the need for the application of clinical judgement to each individual presentation.

Approved by:	SCHN Policy, Procedures and Guidelines Committee	
Date Effective:	1 st February 2017	Review Period: 3 years
Team Leader:	CNC	Area/Dept: Infection Control

Treatment of Head Lice

General principles

Head lice should be managed according to the Australian electronic Therapeutic Guidelines, current edition (eg. <https://tqldcdp.tg.org.au.acs.hcn.com.au/viewTopic?topicfile=insects-mites>). Advice can be sought from the infectious diseases and/or microbiology service regarding the best method of confirming the diagnosis and the most appropriate treatment.

Preliminary Requirements

- Patients with suspected or confirmed lice infestation should be managed with Contact Precautions.
- Patients should be placed in a single room in any ward suitable for that patient until the patient has been treated with an appropriate pediculicide.
- Prior to using the prescribed shampoo/ lotion, read the manufacturer's instructions.
- **STAFF NOTE:** Pregnant or lactating women and people with sensitive skin should take precautions to minimise exposure to any shampoos or lotions used in treatment.
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) (e.g. gloves, gown / apron and hair covering) should be worn whilst carrying out the treatment. Alternatively the patient, if able, may carry out the treatment under supervision.
- Linen used during the procedure must be placed in a linen bag. The linen skip is to be taken to the patient's bedside and the bag should be tied off when 3/4 filled.
- Staff should inform Infection Prevention and Control of the index case and any suspected cross infection (ALL information received is kept confidential). After hours, staff should report to the Hospital CRMO at SCH and the After Hours Nurse Manager AHNM at CHW.
- All children should be inspected for head lice on admission and the findings documented on the Nursing Admission notes.

Treatment of Scabies

General principles

Scabies should be managed according to the Australian electronic Therapeutic Guidelines, current edition (eg. <https://tqldcdp.tg.org.au.acs.hcn.com.au/viewTopic?topicfile=insects-mites>). Advice can be sought from the infectious diseases and/or microbiology service regarding the best method of confirming the diagnosis and the most appropriate treatment.

Preliminary Requirements

- Patients with suspected or confirmed scabies infestation should be managed with Contact Precautions.
- Patients should be placed in a single room in any ward suitable for that patient until they have been treated with an appropriate scabicide.
- Prior to using the prescribed lotion, read the manufacturer's instructions for use.
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) (e.g. gloves, gown/apron) should be worn. Hair is to be tied back whilst assisting with treatment.
- Linen used during the procedure must be placed in a linen bag. The linen skip is to be taken to the patient's bedside. The bag should be tied off when 3/4 filled.
- Non-disposable equipment must be thoroughly washed and disinfected after use, as per the protocol for the piece of equipment.
- Staff should inform Infection Prevention and Control of the index case and any suspected cross infection (ALL information received is kept confidential). After hours, staff should report to the Hospital CRMO at SCH or the AHNM at CHW.
- All children should have their skin condition examined on admission and documented in the Nursing Admission notes.

Related Documents

- NSW Ministry of health Policy Directive PD2007_036 "Infection Control Policy"
http://www0.health.nsw.gov.au/policies/pd/2007/pdf/PD2007_036.pdf
- Infection Control: Isolation – CHW Practice Guideline:
<http://chw.schn.health.nsw.gov.au/o/documents/policies/guidelines/2006-8256.pdf>

[Infection Control: Isolation and Transmission Based Precautions – SCH Practice Guideline](#)

References

- 1) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Parasites-Lice-Head Lice webpage.
<http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/treatment.html> (Accessed 27/01/2016).
- 2) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Parasites – Scabies webpage.
http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/scabies/health_professionals/meds.html (Accessed 27/01/2016).
- 3) Sharquie KE, *et al.* Treatment of scabies using 8% and 10% topical sulphur ointment in different regimens of application. *J Drugs Dermatol* 2012; 11(3): 357-364.
- 4) MIMS Online. Neutralice Advance Lotion - Full Product Information.
https://www.mimsonline.com.au.acs.hcn.com.au/Search/AbbrPI.aspx?ModuleName=ProductInfo&searchKeyword=neutralice&PreviousPage=~/Search/QuickSearch.aspx&SearchType=&ID=84840001_2 (Accessed 29/01/2016).
- 5) MIMS Online. Hedrin Lotion – Full Product Information.
https://www.mimsonline.com.au.acs.hcn.com.au/Search/AbbrPI.aspx?ModuleName=ProductInfo&searchKeyword=hedrin&PreviousPage=~/Search/QuickSearch.aspx&SearchType=&ID=88900002_2 (Accessed 29/01/2016).
- 6) MIMS Online. Ascabiol Lotion - Full Product Information.
https://www.mimsonline.com.au.acs.hcn.com.au/Search/FullPI.aspx?ModuleName=ProductInfo&searchKeyword=Benzyl+benzoate&PreviousPage=~/Search/QuickSearch.aspx&SearchType=&ID=17630001_2 (Accessed 29/01/2016).
- 7) MIMS Online. Benzemul 25% Lotion – Full Product Information.
https://www.mimsonline.com.au.acs.hcn.com.au/Search/AbbrPI.aspx?ModuleName=ProductInfo&searchKeyword=Benzyl+benzoate&PreviousPage=~/Search/QuickSearch.aspx&SearchType=&ID=46820001_2 (Accessed 29/01/2016).
- 8) Australian Electronic Therapeutic Guidelines (Dermatology), Version 4.
<https://tgldcdp.tg.org.au.acs.hcn.com.au/viewTopic?topicfile=insects-mites> (Accessed 12/10/2016).
- 9) American Academy of Paediatrics. Scabies, ed. *2009 Red Book: Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases*. 28th ed. Elk Grove Village, IL: American Academy of Paediatrics; 2009: 589 -.591.
- 10) American Academy of Paediatrics. Pediculosis Capitis, ed. *2009 Red Book: Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases*. 28th ed. Elk Grove Village, IL: American Academy of Paediatrics; 2009: 495 – 498.