

JUVENILE COURT HEALTH SERVICES - INFECTION CONTROL

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| Subject: | | Original | Policy # |
| PREVENTION, TREATMENT AND CONTROL OF BED BUGS, LICE AND SCABIES | | Issue Date: 2/8/19 | IC-09 |
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| Departments Consulted: | Approved By: | Approved by: | |
| | (Signature on File) Medical Director | (Signature on File) Health Services Administrator | |
| | (Signature on File) Infection Control Manager | | |

PURPOSE

To provide guidelines for the prevention, identification, treatment and control of bed bugs, lice and scabies.

POLICY:

Bed bugs, lice, and scabies shall be controlled upon identification to prevent the spread within any Probation facility or camp.

PROCEDURE:

A. Prevention

- Youth should only have necessary personal items during their period of detention in Probation facilities. Clothes, blankets, bags and other possessions that is not essential during a youth's stay need to be left at home or kept to a minimum. Items should be placed in a plastic bag and given to family to take home.
- Reduce clutter, seal cracks, crevices and holes near beds, repair or replace peeling wallpaper or paint, and take other actions to reduce bed bug hiding places.
- Follow good laundry handling practices to prevent the dispersal of bed bugs:
 - Keep carts in the hallway during room service.
 - Keep the clean and dirty laundry separate on carts and in laundry processing room.
 - Do not place dirty laundry in linen storerooms, linen closets, or any room that contains clean linens.

B. Identification

- Screening every admission for signs/symptoms of bed bugs via verbal screening and history.
- The admission physical exam includes an assessment of skin integrity and observes for bites that appear in a row.
- An assessment of clothing during the admission process must occur, observing for any signs of infestation of bed bugs. Clothing found to be infested will be placed in a plastic bag and securely tied.
- Upon identification of bedbugs, lice or scabies notify area Manager/Supervisor:
 - For Bedbugs: also notify Environmental Services (EVS), Facility Manager and

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Infection Control Manager. Environmental cleaning of affected units or areas must be done simultaneously with treatment measures.

- Any specimens (suspected bed bugs) should be collected in a sealed specimen container and presented to Pest Control for positive identification. The specimen container should include the patient's name and medical record number, if applicable.
- Facility manager will contact Pest Control for an inspection and extermination if needed.

○ For Lice or Scabies:

- Notify the physician on duty.
- Notify Infection Control Manager if suspected outbreak of lice or scabies (including any single or multiple cases of atypical/crusted (or Norwegian) scabies).
- Report all cases of atypical/crusted scabies to the Los Angeles County Public Health Department within one working day from identification.
- Documentation of event will require submission of a Safety Intelligence (SI) report with all findings and actions taken.

C. Transmission-Based Precautions:

- When caring for youth with suspected/diagnosed bed bugs, lice or scabies, the following precautions must be observed:
 - Bed bugs:
 - Use standard precautions when caring for youth. Wear gown and gloves when removing and bagging clothing.
 - Lice:
 - For head lice, place youth in contact precautions until 24 hours after initiation of effective therapy.
 - For body and pubic lice, use standard precautions when caring for youth. Wear gown and gloves when removing and bagging clothing.
 - Scabies:
 - Use standard precautions when caring for youth. Wear gown and gloves when removing and bagging clothing.
 - For **atypical/crusted scabies**, maintain contact precautions until treatment is completed and/or case is determined to be non-infectious by a dermatology consultant or other experienced designee.

D. Management of Youth:

- Educate the youth that has been exposed to bed bugs, lice or scabies. Educate the youth on the likelihood that the insects may have been acquired from the current living environment so appropriate actions (described below) can be taken, if needed.
- If a youth from the affected unit has been transferred/discharged before control measures were implemented, contact healthcare and Probation staff.

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- Place youth’s personal belongings such as clothing, blanket, etc. in a plastic bag, securely tied and sent home with family. The sealed plastic bag with personal belongings must be given to family to launder personal items in hot water and machine dried. Another option is to discard items (secured in a sealed plastic bag). If the patient has no family, obtain youth’s permission to discard infested items.
- All belongings will remain in tied plastic bags until the youth is discharged.
- Any County-provided belongings may be securely tied in a plastic bag and discarded.
- Start treatment of infested individual as soon as diagnosed, if possible.

- Bed bugs:

- Shower/bathe patient to remove any bed bugs that may be on the youth.
- Immediately transfer youth to another room to allow for cleaning of the potentially infested room. No further precautions are necessary.

- Lice:

- Shower/bathe patient to remove any lice that may be on the youth.
- Apply pediculicide (with repeat treatments as needed) as instructed by physician.
- For head lice: do not use a combination shampoo/conditioner or conditioner prior to treatment. Do not rewash the hair for 1-2 days after lice medicine is removed.
- Removal of nits with fine-tooth comb is not necessary after successful treatment with a pediculicide, but may be done for aesthetic reasons, or to reduce diagnostic confusion and the chance of unnecessary retreatment.

- Scabies:

- Apply treatment as instructed by physician.
- **Atypical/Crusted (Norwegian) scabies** is highly transmissible. Strict Contact Precautions in a single-bed room is required, including gown, gloves and shoe covers. Consider assigning a cohort of staff to care only for patients with crusted scabies. Visitors should be limited, and use the same strict Contact Precautions as staff. The patient’s room should be cleaned and thoroughly disinfected, and bedding and clothing either disposed of or laundered using hot water and dryer cycles. All staff and visitors, who may have been exposed to a youth with **atypical/crusted** scabies or to clothing, bedding or furniture used by such a youth, should be identified and evaluated for treatment on the recommendation of a physician.

C. Management of the Environment:

- Never remove any items from an infested room before inspection and/or treatment. This will help prevent relocating insects to other areas of the unit.
 - Bed bugs:
 - If bed bugs are suspected, the Facility Manager shall call an approved licensed pest control vendor.
 - Upon confirmation of bed bugs, the patient(s) will be transferred out of the room, and the room is to be shut down.

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- Pest Control will treat the suspected infested area with appropriate pesticide agents.
 - After treatment by the pest control vendor, standard EVS terminal cleaning and disinfection should be performed (see below).
 - Rooms that have been serviced for bed bugs must be rescheduled for follow-up inspection, re-serviced as needed, and kept unusable until the bed bugs have been successfully controlled.
 - Affected rooms and adjacent rooms should be inspected for 2-3 months to ensure that no isolated pockets of bed bugs remain.
- Lice:
 - Lice do not survive long in the environment; standard EVS terminal cleaning and disinfection may be performed.
- Scabies:
 - Standard EVS terminal cleaning and disinfection procedures may be performed. **Note:** If crusted scabies was present, terminal cleaning should be performed as noted above.
 - Clean the room(s) of youth with crusted scabies regularly to remove contaminating skin crusts and scales that can contain many mites.
- Upon completion of inspection and/or treatment, EVS will terminally clean the room as per policy to include:
 - Washing down all walls
 - Strip / wax floor
 - Discard cleaning materials after use
- EVS will follow Contact Precautions while providing terminal cleaning of the room.
- Once terminal cleaning is completed, EVS will notify nursing unit manager/designee to let them know the room is available for regular use.

AUTHORITY

California Code of Regulations, Title 15, Article 8, Section 1430

REFERENCES

NCCHC Standard Y-B-01

Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) - Bed Bugs - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) www.cdc.gov/parasites/bedbugs

Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) - Lice – Resources for Health Professionals http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/health_professionals/index.html

Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) - Scabies – Resources for Health Professionals. http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/scabies/health_professionals/institutions.html

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National Pest Management Association Guidelines: “Response to Bed Bugs in Medical Facilities”
<https://www.pestworld.org/media/560218/bbprotocol-medical.pdf>

Acute Communicable Disease Control Manual (B-73) - Scabies - August 2016
<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/procs/b73/DiseaseChapters/B73Scabies.pdf>