

RANCHO LOS AMIGOS NATIONAL REHABILITATION CENTER

Infection Prevention and Control

SUBJECT: Infection Control Guidelines for Prevention, Treatment, and Control of Bed Bugs	Policy Number	IC 230
	Create Date:	10/27/2011
	Reviewed:	04/2022
<i>Approved by Hospital Infection Control Committee on 11/30/11</i>	Page Number:	1 of 3

PURPOSE

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

RATIONALE

A number of health effects may occur due to bed bugs, including skin rashes, psychological effects, and allergic symptoms. Diagnosis involves both finding bed bugs and the occurrence of compatible symptoms. Treatment is otherwise symptomatic.

Important Information:

Cimicidae (bedbugs), are small parasitic insects. The most common type is *Cimex lectularius*. The term usually refers to species that prefer to feed on human blood but can survive for several months without feeding. Bed bugs have not been shown to transmit disease to humans.

The name "bed bug" is derived from the insect's preferred habitat of houses and especially beds or other areas where people sleep. Bed bugs, though not strictly nocturnal, are mainly active at night but may present during the day in stressed conditions. They are capable of feeding unnoticed on their hosts

They have been known by a variety of names including wall louse, mahogany flat, crimson Rambler, heavy dragoon, chinche and redcoat.

Bedbugs have three basic life stages; egg, nymph and adult. Young nymphs are the size of a poppy seed and mature adults are the size of an apple seed. Bed bugs tend to gather in places where a person sleeps. As bed bugs grow they leave behind hollow amber colored shells that they shed. Fecal spots are the result of bed bug digestion and can be found on a person's clothes, linen and sometimes on wood or other surfaces. They may resemble a black magic marker dot.

Bed bugs can be found singly, but often congregate once established. They usually remain close to hosts. Harborage areas can vary greatly, including luggage, vehicles and bedside clutter.

Bedbugs can also be found in:

- Seams and creases of mattresses and chairs
- Under chairs, couches and beds
- Between cushions
- Between curtain folds
- Behind baseboards and around windows
- In televisions
- In purses and clothing

Patients should only bring necessary items into the hospital. Clothes, blankets, luggage, bags and other possessions that are not essential during a patient's stay should be left at home. Items brought into the hospital should be placed in a plastic bag and family should be

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encouraged to take them home.

Procedure to Identify Bedbugs:

- Upon suspicion of bedbugs notify Unit Manager or Supervisor, Environmental Services or Environmental Services Contract Staff, Environmental Safety Officer, and Infection Prevention and Control
- Any specimens of suspect bedbugs should be collected in a sealed specimen container and presented to the Environmental Services Manager or designee for positive identification. The specimen container should include the patient's name and room number
- Environmental Services manager will contact Pest Control

Management of in-patients diagnosed with bedbug infestation:

- Place patient in Contact Precautions.
- Place patient's purse and/or wallet in a plastic bag and securely tie the bag. Put patient's personal belongings, clothing, blanket, etc. in another plastic bag and securely tie and send home with family. If the patient has no family, inform patient that you have separated out his/her wallet and purse from his other items and you want his permission to discard the other bag since the items may be infested with bedbugs. Inform the patient you will provide additional clothing.
- Shower/bathe patient to remove any bedbugs that may be on the patient, then immediately transfer patient to another room. No further precautions are necessary.
- Patient should be strongly discouraged from opening the bag with their personal items while in the healthcare facility
- Patient is to wear hospital attire only while in the facility.
- All belongings will remain in plastic bags until discharged.

Management of the Environment

- After transferring the patient to another room, Pest Control will treat the suspected infested area with appropriate pesticide agents. Pest Control will inform nursing staff when the room is safe to be entered and used.
- Environmental Services will follow Contact Precautions while providing terminal cleaning of the room.

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Management of Bedbugs in Ambulatory Care areas

- If suspicion of bedbugs prior to patient's visit, provider will assess to determine the urgency of the appointment and to use alternative method when appropriate.
- Staff will submit a referral for Social Work for follow-up to ensure that treatment of bed bugs is complete, and issue is resolved.
- Social Work will follow-up via phone call; home visit only when deemed necessary.
- If problem not resolved in a timely manner, Social Work will file a complaint with L.A. County Public Health's Environmental Health Department at (888) 700-9995.
- Social Work will notify Infection Prevention & Control when the issue is resolved.
- Upon suspicion of bedbugs for patient already onsite, notify Unit Manager or designee, Administrative Nurse on duty and, Rancho Los Amigos Environmental Services, or Environmental Services Contract Staff, Environmental Safety Officer, and Infection Prevention and Control
- Any specimens of suspect bedbugs shall be collected in a sealed specimen container and presented to the Environmental Services Manager or designee for positive identification. The specimen container should include the patient's name and room number
- Facilities Management will contact Pest Control
- Remove all clutter from the environment
- Staff should encourage patients to minimize personal belongings being brought in from outside
- Staff with any suspected bites shall notify their Supervisor/Manager immediately.
- Patient will be isolated to one room/ area during the visit to minimize the risk of transmission.
- Patients will be given a yellow isolation gown to wear over their clothing and instructed to wear the gown as long as they are in the clinic.
- Any personal belongings brought into the clinic setting, such as purses, fanny packs and backpacks will be placed in a securely closed plastic bag and remain in bag until the patient leaves the building.
- All furniture identified as possibly harboring bedbugs will be treated outside of the environment or placed in plastic bags as appropriate. If the item cannot be treated to eradicate the bedbugs it will be picked up for immediate disposal.

Reference:

Center for Disease Control and Prevention CDC) website, Parasites: Bed Bugs 2010.