

Scabies outbreak - care home

– Action summary



IPC Measures

1. Consider isolation of symptomatic residents and possible exclusion of symptomatic staff until mass treatment completed.
2. Subject to risk assessment - temporary suspension of transfers in and out of home.
3. Body map all residents within home or unit only (if separate) Report any new skin changes e.g. unexplained rashes to GP for review and CIPCT.
4. Identify close contacts (up to 8 weeks prior to diagnosis) including residents, staff, visitors, visiting staff (hairdressers, DNs, other professionals as well as agency staff), provide 'Warn and inform' letter and display outbreak notice.
5. Visiting can continue as normal – provided visitors are aware of risk, PPE is available (gloves & aprons) and they are advised to avoid skin-to-skin contact.
6. Staff to wear PPE (gloves & aprons) when providing personal care to symptomatic residents. Consider single patient use long sleeve gowns or sleeve protectors.

Treatment

1. Permethrin (Lyclear) is normally 1st choice treatment is for both symptomatic and asymptomatic contacts residents & staff.
2. Two tubes of permethrin is recommended per skin application to provide adequate coverage
3. Two separate treatments are required for both symptomatic and asymptomatic contacts staff & residents – 7 days apart - Treatment application should be co-ordinated to take place within the same 24 hr period.
4. The residents GP practice have responsibility for prescribing for all residents (symptomatic & contacts). Due to occupational exposure, the employer should consider funding staff treatment rather than staff paying for their own prescriptions.

Laundry & Environment

1. All clothes, soft slippers, towels and bed linen of the affected case should be washed at a minimum of 50°C (122°F) on the day of application of the first treatment
2. If clothes cannot be washed at high temperature, they can be sealed in plastic bags for 4 days at room temperature, after which mites are unlikely to survive.
3. Alternative methods include pressing clothes with a warm iron, dry cleaning and putting items into a hot cycle in the dryer for 10 to 30 minutes.
4. Appropriate PPE worn when handling any of these items.

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All outbreak measures can be lifted 24 hrs after first treatment application

Ongoing monitoring

1. 6 weeks - CIPCT will contact the home for an update to ascertain if symptoms are resolving. Should symptoms remain, a GP review may be required – investigate other possible causes.
2. 12 weeks - CIPCT will contact the home for final assessment of staff and residents.

NB - should any of the symptomatic cases develop significantly worsening symptoms and / or any new cases present, the care home should seek further GP advice and inform CIPCT.

For further detailed guidance – please see link below:

[UKHSA guidance on the management of scabies cases and outbreaks in long-term care facilities and other closed settings - GOV.UK](#)

Thank you for your co-operation.

Bolton Community Infection Prevention and Control Team

01204 390892 / email CIPCT@boltonft.nhs.uk