

2. ENVIRONMENT

- Reinfestation will occur if the problem is not addressed at the environment level.
- All items that have come in contact with the infested person have to be washed in hot water. The heat of the water or the hot cycle in the dryer will kill any live nits or lice.
- Anything that cannot be washed have to be dry cleaned or placed in a plastic bag, sealed and left for 10 days. They can also be frozen for 48-72 hours. This will insure that the lice or nits are no longer living.
- Combs, hairbrushes and hair buckles should be cleaned in hot water or a pediculicide for 5-10 minutes.
- Lice will die after 1-2 days off the host and nit that hatch away from a host die within a few hours if no new host is found.

DETECTION

THERE ARE 3 METHODS:

1. Dampen hair, bend over a plain sheet of paper and comb hair with a fine tooth comb. Look to see if any lice have dropped.
2. Tap head with a piece of transparent tape, lice will stick to the tape.
3. Apply white conditioner to dry hair covering from root to tip and comb with a head lice comb. Wipe comb into tissue paper and look for lice. Remove the conditioner before any treatment.

HAND HYGIENE

Special care must be paid to **hand hygiene**, as it is the best way to prevent the spread of germs. **Good hand hygiene includes:**

Alcohol-Based Hand Rub

- Apply to palm of one hand.
- Rub hands together, covering all of hands and fingers.
- Rub until hands feel dry
- If hands are visibly dirty you must wash them before using Alcohol Based Hand Rub

Hand Washing:

- Use warm running water and soap
- Spend at least 15-30 seconds lathering and washing hands
- Rub hands together, paying attention to fingertips, around rings and thumbs
- Rinse thoroughly
- Dry with paper towel and turn off tap with paper towel
- Dispose of paper towel in the garbage

IT'S OK TO ASK NURSES, DOCTORS AND OTHER HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS IF THEY HAVE CLEANED THEIR HANDS

REMINDE VISITORS TO CLEAN THEIR HANDS

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PEDICULOSIS (LICE) MANAGEMENT

*Information for Patients,
Residents, Families & Visitors*

**IF VISITING PLEASE CHECK WITH
NURSE BEFORE ENTERING
PATIENT ROOM**



INFECTION PREVENTION
& CONTROL PROGRAM

WHAT ARE LICE?

Lice are parasitic insects that can be found on your head and body including the pubic area. Lice found on different parts of the body are different from each other and only the body louse is known to spread disease. They survive by feeding on human blood.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF LICE?

- The presence of a live louse.
- Identification of nits on the hair shaft.
- Tickling feeling of something crawling in your hair.
- Some people may have an allergic reaction 1-2 weeks after infestation.
- Soreness and crusting from scratching that can result in an infection or swelling.

WHO CAN GET LICE?

- Anyone can get it under suitable conditions of exposure. It is not a sign that you are dirty.
- It can affect any age, sex, race, or socioeconomic level. No one is immune.
- Worldwide head lice is more common in children.

HOW IS LICE SPREAD?

- It is spread most commonly by direct person to person contact.
- It is commonly spread in families due to sharing of personal items like brushes and combs and the close personal contact.
- They can crawl from one individual in close contact with another. They cannot hop or fly.
- It can also spread indirectly by sharing personal belongings like hats and hair accessories.
- A head louse will not usually crawl from its preferred place of warmth on the scalp.
- Dogs, cats and other pets do not play a role in transmission of human lice.

HOW LONG CAN YOU SPREAD LICE?

- As long as lice or viable eggs remain alive on the infested head.
- Lice that fall off the head will die within 20-48 hours without blood to feed on.
- Nits (eggs) will not hatch off the head because they require the warmth and humidity.
- Lice can survive 24 hours immersed in water.

HOW DO YOU PREVENT THE SPREAD OF LICE?

- All household contact and contacts should be examined and treated at the same time if infestation is discovered.
- People should not share or use another person's hat, comb or brush.
- Once lice have been found and treated there should be periodic checks of the infested area to ensure no other lice have hatched.

WHAT IS THE TREATMENT FOR LICE?

Treatment may involve 2 approaches:

1. MEDICATION

- A special cream rinse or shampoo can be used. (NIX, Kwellada-P or a Pyrethrin product)
- This will need to be applied 7-10 days after the first treatment.
- Although safe when used correctly they can be potentially toxic when used incorrectly.
- Anyone with skin conditions or convulsive disorders should speak to their doctor.
- If you are pregnant or breastfeeding you should wear waterproof (rubber, latex etc) gloves when providing the treatment.