

SCABIES CONTROL

MEASURES

These control measures are applicable to any situation where scabies infestation is diagnosed, whether it is a single case or an outbreak.

Investigation

Verification of scabies infestation should be attempted prior to treatment. Information regarding appropriate treatment recipients, methods, and recommendations can be found in the “Medications to Treat Scabies” section.

Treatment Considerations

Timing of treatment should coincide with resource availability, such as sufficient quantity of medication and additional staffing, so that treatment can be completed within a 24-hour time period and proper cleaning of the environment can occur.

Consider timing treatment to coincide with patient bedtime to reduce risk of medication being washed off so that the treatment administration does not disrupt daily activities.

Treatment of an entire facility should be considered when scabies cases are identified on multiple floors and/or units or if scabies transmission was not controlled during the initial treatment initiative and new cases have been identified.

Patients, visitors, health care workers, families, and volunteers should all be treated within the same 24-hour time period.

Standard Precautions

Gowns and gloves should be worn by all facility personnel who have direct contact with suspected or confirmed scabies patients, until completion of treatment, or until scabies has been ruled out.

Restrict both patient and roommate(s) to their room for duration of therapy. Do not restrict patient to his/her room if the entire unit is undergoing treatment, but do restrict movement to within the nursing unit.

Post signs to alert health care workers, visitors, and volunteers of precautions being observed.

Food service may serve and prepare meals as usual. Disposable dishes and utensils are not necessary.

Any specific isolation precautions beyond standard precautions should be discontinued after treatment has been completed.

Environmental Cleaning

The environment of the case must be thoroughly cleaned to prevent scabies re-infestation. Information regarding appropriate cleaning methods and recommendations can be found in the “Environment of Care ” section.

Education

Refer to the “Scabies Education” section for information that may be distributed to patients, families, volunteers, health care workers, and visitors.