

SCABIES REPORTING

Under the Michigan Public Health Code of 1978, any unusual occurrence, outbreak, or epidemic of any disease, condition, or nosocomial infection must be reported within 24 hours of discovery or diagnosis. Upon discovery of a scabies outbreak, all Michigan physicians and health care providers are, therefore, required to report the scabies outbreak to their local county health department.

Importance of Reporting Scabies Outbreaks

- ▲ Outbreak control guidance, consultation, and information regarding treatment options are available through your **local county health department (LHD)**.
- ▲ Coordinating outbreak control efforts with your local county health department will improve the communication of important health information to concerned family members, employees, or volunteers.

Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)

In December 2000, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services adopted regulations under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) to protect the privacy of individually-identifiable health information (Privacy Rule).

Questions have been raised about the impact of HIPAA on individually-identifiable health information that is provided to MDCH or LHD by entities that are covered by the Privacy Rule (covered entities) for disease prevention and control purposes. The Privacy Rule does allow a covered entity to disclose, without individual authorization, protected health information to a public health authority.

The Privacy Rule does not prevent covered entities (including hospitals, physicians, clinical laboratories, and other health care providers) from providing individually-identifiable health information to MDCH and to LHD for disease prevention and control activities pursuant to 45 CFR § 164.514(d) of the Privacy Rule.

Reporting to Local Health Departments

All scabies outbreaks should be reported to the local county health department in which the facility resides. The following rules from the Michigan Public Health Code of 1978 designate reporting requirements and investigative authorities:

- ▲ R 325.173 Details reporting requirements for health care providers, health care facilities, and clinical laboratories.
- ▲ R 325.174 Provides local and state public health officials the authority to investigate reported diseases, infections, epidemics, and situations with potential for causing diseases.
- ▲ R 325.20507 Details the responsibility of nursing homes and nursing care facilities to establish an infection control committee to develop and maintain policies and procedures relating to infection control. Rule 507 (e) establishes the requirement for nursing home and nursing care facilities to establish “effective communication with the local health department.”
- ▲ See www.michigan.gov/orr for more information.

For additional information, questions, or concerns, please call your local health department or the Michigan Department of Community Health/Infectious Diseases Epidemiology Section at (517) 335-8165. A list of local health department contact information can be found at www.malph.org

Reporting to MDCH/Bureau of Health Systems formerly know as MDCIS

Although there is no federal regulation or State of Michigan rule, the Bureau of Health Systems has the expectation that long-term care facilities licensed through the bureau will report one or more cases of concurrent resident scabies to their licensing officer/survey monitor. Associated citations and complaint investigations are generally fueled by the lack of effective treatment or lack of appropriate containment measures, not the lack of reporting to the bureau. Effective communication with the licensing team helps to facilitate investigation strategy and reach appropriate treatment decisions. The licensing officer or survey monitor can provide consultation regarding outbreak management.

Scabies Report

The following information should be provide when a scabies outbreak is reported to the local health department:

- ▲ Facility name
- ▲ Complete facility address - including county
- ▲ Telephone number with area code
- ▲ Approximate number of cases
- ▲ DOB, age, sex, race, ethnic origin
- ▲ Diagnosis date
- ▲ Onset of symptoms
- ▲ Duration of symptoms
- ▲ Pertinent laboratory results
- ▲ Tally of suspect vs. confirmed cases
- ▲ Location of cases in facility
- ▲ Identity of reporting person with name, address, phone number