

STANDING ORDER SCABIES TREATMENT

Scabies is an infestation of the skin caused by the human itch mite. The adult female mite burrows into the upper layer of the skin where it lives and deposit eggs. The microscopic mite almost always is passed by direct, prolonged, skin to skin contact with a person who is already infested. An infested person can spread scabies even if he or she has no symptoms. Animals do not spread human scabies.

Scabies can be passed easily to other household members and sexual partners. Scabies in adults is frequently sexually acquired. Diagnosis of scabies infestation usually is made based upon the customary appearance and distribution of the rash and the presence of burrows. If possible, the diagnosis can be confirmed by identifying the mite, mite eggs or fecal matter. This can be done by carefully removing the mite from the end of its borrow using the tip of the needle or by obtaining a skin scraping to examine under a microscope for mites, eggs, or might fecal matter. Fewer than 10-15 mites may be present on an infested person who is otherwise healthy.

It is important to remember that the first time a person gets scabies they usually have no symptoms. Symptoms can typically take 4-8 weeks to develop after they are infested, however they can still spread scabies during this time. In addition, treatment is also recommended for household members and sexual contacts, particularly those who have had prolonged direct skin-to-skin contact.

I. ASSESSMENT:

- a. Obtain medical history that demonstrates suspicion for scabies. (Rash, itching, scabies exposure).
- b. Contact medical for RN or provider examination.
- c. Patient should be isolated in a separate cell until diagnosis is confirmed and treatment is complete. They should remain isolated in a separate cell for one week after treatment or two weeks if still symptomatic.
- d. Close contacts should be inspected for scabies as well.

II. TREATMENT:

- a. Have patient shower and apply permethrin topical 5% cream **from the neck down**. Leave on for 8-14 hours then wash off.
- b. Patient should be given new bedding, shoes, socks and any personal undergarments should be washed in hot soapy water. Bedding, clothes and towels used by infested people should be decontaminated by washing in hot water and drying in a hot dryer or sealed in a plastic bag for at least 72 hours.
- c. Permethrin can be repeated once in 2-4 weeks after initial treatment if new burrows or rash continues to appear.
- d. Itching may continue for several weeks after treatment, notify facility provider if itching is severe, medications are required for itching or symptoms do not improve 1 week after initial application of permethrin.