

Action card for the management of a scabies outbreak in care homes or supported living

Single case of Scabies

For management of a single case refer to [UKHSA guidance on the management of scabies cases and outbreaks in long-term care facilities and other closed settings - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) **Remember to inform visiting professionals, and any service or hospital trust if the infected person is attending or being admitted so a risk assessment can be undertaken.**



Setting suspects an outbreak of Scabies

An outbreak is defined as 2 or more linked cases of scabies within an 8 week period. Before initiating treatment of single cases, all residents and staff should be checked for symptoms and signs of scabies to identify any further cases. Assessing clinicians should be aware of the potential for asymptomatic infection, particularly in the elderly.



Identify all close contacts (up to 8 weeks prior to diagnosis) including visitors who meet the [definition of a close contact](#).



Report the outbreak to UKHSA East Of England Health Protection Team

Email: eastofenglandhpt@ukhsa.gov.uk Phone: **0300 303 8537**

You will be provided with advice and support on co- ordination of treatment for all cases and contacts and outbreak control measures.

For further support and advice Email: HertsHPT.SPOC@hertfordshire.gov.uk



Co - ordination of Treatment

Treat all cases and contacts linked to the setting simultaneously (symptomatic or asymptomatic individuals) to break the cycle of transmission. Recommended treatment involves the application of Permethrin 5% cream (Lyclear) – topical insecticide or Malathion (0.5%) aqueous liquid (Debac-M) if Permethrin is not appropriate. Two treatments are required to be given 7 days apart. [UKHSA guidance on the management of scabies cases and outbreaks in long-term care facilities and other closed settings - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#). If staff contacts are off duty at the time of treatment, they should complete the first 24hour treatment dose before returning to work. Where occupational exposure of staff has led to their need for treatment it is the employer's responsibility to fund the treatment. The care home can purchase supplies of treatment from a local community pharmacy to provide to staff or the care home can pay for prescription costs if the staff member obtains a prescription from their usual GP. The GP who prescribes for the care home residents cannot prescribe treatment for the member of staff unless they are registered with the same GP practice. Coordinating supplies of treatment for staff will ensure prompt and coordinated treatment.

*Obtaining supplies of large volumes has been difficult recently due to pressure on supply availability. Please try your usual community pharmacist first and if they are unable to help, please consider contacting other local pharmacies who may have different supply routes.

For advice and support Email: hweicbenh.pharmacycarehomes@nhs.net

For any treatment query Email: hweicbhv.medicinesoptimisationteam@nhs.net

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Outbreak Control measures

- Staff and visitors should wear appropriate PPE - gloves and plastic apron when handling and providing personal care to a resident diagnosed with scabies (until 24 hours after treatment commenced)
- Consider isolation of resident diagnosed with scabies until after the first 24hour treatment completed.
- Regular cleaning of the environment to remove skin scales and dust.
- Laundry must be managed as per guidance [NHS England » \(HTM 01-04\) Decontamination of linen for health and social care](#). [UKHSA guidance on the management of scabies cases and outbreaks in long-term care facilities and other closed settings - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- Staff diagnosed with scabies or identified as a contact of a case should not return to work until after completion of first 24 hr treatment dose.
- **Important** If a case or contact requires transfer to hospital or another setting, the admitting setting must be informed of the outbreak prior to the admission so a risk assessment can be undertaken.
- Transfer of cases and contacts should ideally occur after the first 24 hour treatment dose at which point the risk of onward transmission is minimal.



Declaring the outbreak over

A scabies outbreak is declared over if no new cases are identified within 12 weeks of symptom onset date of last known case. Once the outbreak is declared over by UKHSA HPT please notify HCC Public Health Team

Email: HertsHPT.SPOC@hertfordshire.gov.uk