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**KEY WORDS:** scabies, Norwegian scabies, isolation precautions, scabicide, exposure

### PATIENT CARE OBJECTIVE

Contact Precautions shall be utilized for the management and control of scabies. All patients with uncomplicated (conventional) scabies and Norwegian scabies shall be placed on Contact Precautions. All components of Contact Precautions shall apply to the care of the patient. Norwegian scabies is a severe form of heavy mite infestation.

### PROCEDURES

1. Patient placement
  - A private room is preferred for all patients with uncomplicated (conventional) scabies. Patients with uncomplicated (conventional) scabies may be roomed together if a private room is not available.
  - Patients with Norwegian scabies must be placed in a private room. When a private room is not available, the Department of Hospital Epidemiology and Infection Control (HEIC) shall be notified.
2. Precautions Sign and Tape
  - A Contact Precautions sign shall be placed on the patient's door. The Contact Precautions tape is placed in front of the patient's chart. Signs and tape are available from the JHH paper goods vendor.
3. Duration of Precautions
  - Apply scabicide according to package insert. Precautions may be discontinued 24 hours after the treatment is completed.
  - For patients with Norwegian scabies, the patient will require 2 treatments with a scabicide 1 week apart. The precautions may be discontinued 24 hours after the second treatment is completed.
  - After completion of precautions, patient needs to be bathed /shower and linen needs to be changed.
4. Isolation Cart
  - An isolation cart is required to be placed outside the patient's room.
5. Attire
  - Gowns and gloves must be worn for physical contact with the patient.
6. Hand Hygiene
  - Personnel must practice good hand hygiene.
7. Linen
  - Place linen in a single, leak-resistant bag at the bedside. After handling of linen, practice good hand hygiene.
8. Trash
  - All trash must be placed in a plastic trash bag.
9. Patient Clothing/Items

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- Infested clothing should be placed and sealed in a plastic bag for 48 hours. The mite will not survive off a human host for more than 48 hours. Clothing/patient belongings should be sent home with the patients' family/caretaker.
  - Patients' belongings should be washed in the washing machine on the hot cycle.
10. Patient/Family Education
- HCW should educate patient and family about need for follow-up and possible treatment regarding scabies.
11. Furniture
- Patient furniture should be upholstered in a washable material, i.e., vinyl.
  - It is recommended that with Norwegian scabies, cloth furniture be dry-cleaned. The Environmental Services Department will facilitate the cleaning.
12. Patient Equipment/Specimens
- Handle according to Standard Precautions.
13. Visitors
- Visitors are expected to adhere to precautions.
14. Nutrition Services
- Personnel serving the tray must follow Contact Precautions.
15. Patient Transportation
- Limit transportation until appropriate treatment (refer to procedure 3) has been completed.
16. Terminal Room Cleaning
- When a patient is discharged, the Contact Precautions sign will remain on the door until the room has been cleaned. The room will be cleaned according to the established housekeeping standards.
17. Exposures
- If skin-to-skin contact occurs with a scabies patient, prophylactic treatment is required. Healthcare workers should contact HEIC if an exposure is suspected.

#### **RELATED PROTOCOLS**

- IFC001 Hand Hygiene, <http://www.insidehopkinsmedicine.org/icpm/IFC001-handwashing.pdf>
- IFC023 Isolation Precautions, <http://www.insidehopkinsmedicine.org/icpm/ifc023isolation.pdf>
- IFC012 Infection Control Management of Exposures of Patients and Personnel to Communicable Diseases, <http://www.insidehopkinsmedicine.org/icpm/IFC012-exposures.pdf>
- Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases
- IFC002 Infection Control Management of Personnel, <http://www.insidehopkinsmedicine.org/icpm/ifc002prevention.pdf>
- IFC015 Standard Precautions and Infection Control and Prevention Requirements, <http://www.insidehopkinsmedicine.org/icpm/ifc015standard.pdf>

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