Scabies Control and Prevention

Last Updated 2018
Objectives

• Identify signs and symptoms of typical and crusted scabies
• Discuss scabies detection
• Describe elements of a scabies control plan
• Review scabies prevention
What is Scabies?

• Mites burrow under the skin and lay eggs
• Severe itching due to allergic reaction
• Infestation causes non-specific bumps with short, wavy, elevated lines or burrows
• Rash can mimic other infections (such as ringworm, insect bites, contact dermatitis, psoriasis, impetigo, eczema, etc.)
• Typical scabies not usually transmitted via inanimate objects

CDPH Scabies Fact Sheet, 2008
Scabies Transmission

Commonly affected areas
- Between fingers
- Armpit
- Wrist
- Elbow
- Waist
- Penis
- Nipple
- Buttocks
- Shoulder blades

Typical Scabies

- Affects people with normal immunity
- Mildly contagious
- Takes 15 – 50 skin mites to cause infection
- Usually presents in the finger webs
- More likely to cause infection in LTC or residential care
- No signs/symptoms for 4-6 weeks after infestation
  - If previously infested, symptoms occur in 48 hours with reinfestation

CDCP Scabies Fact Sheet, 2008
Atypical “Crusted” Scabies

- Formerly Norwegian scabies
- Extremely contagious
- Thick, crusted lesions
- Infested with millions of mites
- Occurs with immune suppression (such as steroid treatment, chemotherapy, psoriasis)
- Often misdiagnosed

[cdc.gov/parasites/scabies/health_professionals/crusted.html](http://cdc.gov/parasites/scabies/health_professionals/crusted.html)
Scabies Detection

• Prevent outbreaks through early identification
• Educate healthcare workers on recognition of scabies
• Test for scabies promptly
  • Skin scraping is the standard test
  • Done by physician, or trained healthcare provider

CDPH Management of Scabies Outbreaks in California Health Care Facilities, 2008
Scabies Treatment

• Treatment options
  • Permethrin cream 5%
  • Sulfur ointment
  • Ivermectin – oral
  • Lindane and Crotamiton lotions (not for children)
• Leave treatment on for recommended time
• Treat all close personal contacts
  • Treat at same time to prevent reinfectionation
• Refer to CDC and CDPH Guidance

cdc.gov/parasites/scabies/treatment.html
Cleaning Resident or Family Belongings

• Clean bedding and clothing worn or used next to the skin during the 3 days before treatment
  • Machine wash and dry using the **hot water and hot dryer cycles** or use dry-cleaner
  • Place items unable to be cleaned or laundered **in a closed plastic bag for several days to a week**
• Scabies mites generally do not survive more than 2 to 3 days away from human skin.

[cdc.gov/parasites/scabies/prevent.html]
Scabies Control Plan

• Develop scabies outbreak control plan
• Train staff to recognize and report scabies signs and symptoms
• Pre-determine scabies outbreak threshold
  • Two cases of typical scabies in a 2 week period
  • One case of crusted scabies
• Report outbreak to L&C and local public health
• Treat symptomatic cases and contacts

CDPH Management of Scabies Outbreaks in California Health Care Facilities, 2008
Scabies Prevention Plan - 1

- Assess skin, hair and nail beds of all new admissions as soon as possible following arrival
- Document pruritus, rashes and skin lesions
  - Notify nursing supervisor and the attending physician
- Repeat skin assessment at least every 4 weeks
Scabies Prevention Plan - 2

• Immediately search for additional cases when scabies suspected
• Initiate Contact Precautions until the diagnosis confirmed and appropriately treated or ruled out
• Educate HCP on the epidemiology of scabies and how to identify and report any unusual pruritus, rashes or skin lesions
• Instruct HCP, visitors, and volunteers to report any exposure to scabies in the home or the community
Summary

• Educate staff on early identification and treatment of scabies
• Break transmission cycle
• Presumptively isolate potential cases
• Know facility scabies policy:
  • Scabies detection
  • Scabies outbreak control plan
  • Scabies prevention
Resources

• CDPH, Outbreak Management of Scabies Outbreaks in California Health Care Facilities, March 2008
  https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/MgmntofScabiesOutbreaksinHCFacilities.pdf

• CDC, Parasites, scabies
  cdc.gov/parasites/scabies/prevent.html