Deep Cleaning after Scabies Treatment

Scabies treatment, whether using a topical preparation (e.g. Permethrin 5% cream) or oral medication (e.g. Ivermectin), requires additional Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) measures. All IPC measures outlined in this guidance must be implemented during each round of Whole Home Treatment (WHT). Two rounds of WHT are currently required in care settings to ensure effective eradication of scabies mites and minimise the risk of reinfestation

Actions to be Completed at the time of Treatment

Complete Steps 1–3 in the resident's bedroom at the time treatment is administered.

- **Permethrin:** Repeat these steps after the treatment has been washed off.
- **Ivermectin:** Complete these steps immediately after the medication has been taken.

Step 1 – Collect and handle used laundry safely.

- Wear appropriate PPE (apron and gloves).
- Collect all clothing, bedding, linen, towels and other fabric items (e.g. hoist slings) used by the affected individual during the **3 days before treatment and up to 24 hours after treatment.**

Step 2 – Bag contaminated items.

- Place all fabric items from symptomatic residents into **dissolvable alginate bags** (where compatible with available washing machines).
- Transfer items to the on-site laundry for **enhanced laundering** (outlined below).

Step 3 – Launder contaminated items.

- Launder all collected clothing, bedding, linen, towels and other fabric items in accordance with the enhanced laundry procedures outlined below:

Enhanced Laundry Procedures.

- Laundry should not be removed from water-soluble (alginate) bags or sorted by hand before washing.
- Do not overload washing machines, as this may affect the effectiveness of the wash cycle.
- For items that cannot tolerate an infected linen wash, or where domestic washing machines without thermal disinfection are used, **wash at 60°C or above.**
- Where possible, laundered items should be dried immediately in a tumble dryer.
- Do not mix contaminated laundry from symptomatic residents with laundry from asymptomatic residents at any stage of the laundering process.
- Laundry disinfection must be carried out at the same time as treatment is administered.
- For residents receiving Permethrin, the laundering process must be repeated once the treatment has been washed off also.
- For residents receiving Ivermectin, laundering should be completed immediately after the medication has been taken.

Ensure that enough appropriately trained and experienced laundry staff are available to manage the additional laundry requirements associated with whole home scabies treatment.

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Actions to be Completed Following Whole Home Treatment

Complete Steps 4–10 in all bedrooms and communal areas following each round of Whole Home Treatment (WHT).

Step 4 – Manage Non-Washable Items.

- Any items that cannot be laundered using a hot wash or dried in a tumble dryer should be placed in a sealed plastic bag for at **least 4 days.** After 4 days, the items should be laundered as normal where possible. If laundering is not possible, **thoroughly vacuum** the item before returning it to use.

Step 5 – Review Mattresses and Pressure Cushions.

- Ensure mattress and pressure cushion audits have been completed.
- Mattresses, mattress covers and pressure cushions should be reviewed monthly and whenever a room is vacated.
- All mattresses and pressure cushions should be protected with a waterproof cover, preferably with an integral zip, to support inspection, maintain integrity and reduce infection risk.
- If a mattress or pressure cushion is not protected by a waterproof cover:
  - Vacuum both sides daily for **3 days following treatment**, and
  - Fit a waterproof cover as soon as possible to reduce the risk of fomite transmission.

Step 6 – Vacuum All Rooms.

- Vacuum floors, carpets and furniture in **all rooms** to help remove scabies mites and eggs from the environment.
- When hoovering floors and carpets pay attention up to skirting boards and in corners and crevices.
- Dispose of vacuum bags or clean and disinfect vacuum containers after each use.
- **Daily vacuuming should continue for 3 days following treatment.**

Step 7 – Damp Dust Surfaces.

- Dust surfaces using a damp cloth.
- Do not use a dry cloth, as this may spread mites into the air.
- Dispose of the cloth after use and use a **new cloth for each room**.

Step 8 – Clean Frequently Touched Surfaces.

- Clean frequently touched surfaces, including:
  - Door handles.
  - Light switches.

- Bathroom fixtures.
- Other high-touch points.

- Warm water and a general-purpose neutral detergent are sufficient for routine cleaning.

Step 9 – Remove Non-Wipeable Soft Furnishings.

- Remove soft furnishings with non-wipeable covers from communal and personal spaces following treatment.
  - Place items in sealed plastic bags for **4 full days** to allow any mites present to die.
  - After 4 days, vacuum the items before returning them to use.

Step 10 – Clean Shared Equipment.

- Clean and disinfect shared equipment between residents, including:
  - Armchairs.
  - Hoists.
  - Commodes.
  - Manual handling equipment.
  - Activity equipment.
  - Any other shared care equipment.

Important

All environmental cleaning and decontamination measures (Steps 4–10) must be repeated following the second round of treatment (7 days after the first treatment round). This is essential to eradicate newly hatched mites, minimise the risk of treatment failure and prevent reinfestation.

Contact details

For further support please contact:
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