

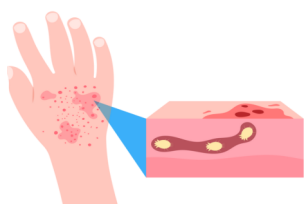
IPC Bulletin for Domiciliary Care

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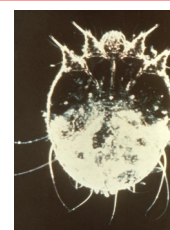


Scabies

Scabies is an extremely itchy skin disorder that leads to a rash. It is caused by a tiny parasite, *Sarcoptes scabiei*, a mite that burrows into and under the skin. Most of the symptoms are due to the body's immune response to the saliva, eggs and waste produced by the mites. A person can get scabies from close physical contact with someone with scabies for example, by hand holding for a prolonged period of time (approximately 10 minutes). It is difficult to recognise and is often attributed to other skin conditions leading to avoidable transmission.



- Itching is often worse at night.
- There are 2 forms of scabies caused by the same mite: classical (typical) and crusted.
- The mites can live away from a host for up to 4 days, but the role of bedding, clothing and/or towels in transmission is unclear.



| Description | Classical scabies | Crusted scabies |
|--------------------------|---|---|
| Number of mites present? | <20. | 1,000's or 1,000,000's of mites present in exfoliating scales of skin. It develops as a result of an insufficient immune response. |
| Who is vulnerable? | Anyone with direct prolonged skin-to-skin contact (approximately 10 minutes) with someone with scabies. | People with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A history of immunosuppression • Reduced ability to scratch • Dementia or Down's syndrome 40% of people with crusted scabies have no identifiable risk factor. |
| Incubation | 3-6 weeks if a person has never had scabies. 1-4 days if a person has previously had scabies. | |
| Treatment | Standard treatment: 2 full body applications of Lyclear Dermal (permethrin 5%) for 8-12 hours, 1 week apart. Reapply to areas washed during treatment period, e.g. hands. Change clothing and bedding after each treatment. If crusted scabies is suspected, dermatological advice should be sought. | |
| Isolation | Standard infection control precautions. Avoid skin-to-skin contact until 24 hours following completion of first treatment. | Standard infection control precautions. Isolate in single room avoid skin-to-skin contact until treatment completed. |
| PPE | Avoid direct skin-to-skin contact. Disposable apron and gloves should be worn for direct contact and handling clothing, bedding, towels and soft furnishings. | |
| Treatment of contacts | Seek advice from your local Community Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) or UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) Team. | |
| Environmental cleaning | Normal cleaning regime. | Increase frequency of vacuuming and deep clean after each treatment. |

What's new

- Infection Prevention and Control training event for Care Homes and Domiciliary Care: 5th March, 2024, or 30th September, 2024. A booking form can be downloaded at: www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk/events/

Visit our website to find lots of IPC resources, many of which are free to download.

www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk

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