

UConn HEALTH

POLICY NUMBER 2014-02

July 8, 2014

POLICY: BED BUG MANAGEMENT

PURPOSE:

To provide assistance to staff in identifying patients presenting with bed bug bites, recognizing bed bugs and preventing and mitigating bed bug infestations.

SCOPE: Environment and/or patients with known bed bugs.

POLICY STATEMENT:

Bed bug prevention and intervention strategies are directed at the environment rather than the host. Prompt notification is critical to prevent infestation and to control the environment from outside sources.

BACKGROUND:

- A. Bed bug infestations in the U.S. primarily are caused by the common bed bug, *Cimex lectularius*. Adult bed bugs are about 1/4 inch long and wingless, with flat, oval, segmented, brown or reddish-brown bodies.
- B. The bed bug feeds only on blood. The main source for blood meals is humans. Bed bug bites are the result of this feeding. The bed bug is attracted to the host by detecting body heat and carbon dioxide. A blood meal is required for the female to produce eggs, and for progression of nymphs to each of the five developmental stages. However, an adult bed bug can survive for a year between feedings.
- C. Bed bugs are not known to transmit any significant diseases. However, they are a nuisance and the bed bugs themselves may be transported into the hospital via a person's clothing and/or their belongings.
- D. Bed bugs typically feed at night and bites often occur on the arms, shoulders, neck and legs. The elongated mouthpart of the insect is used to get a blood meal, which takes about 10 minutes. The bed bug injects the site with salivary fluid that has both anesthetic and anti-coagulative properties to facilitate feeding.

- E. Once feeding is complete the bed bug leaves the host. Typically bugs will not be seen on a person whose environment is infested. This is in contrast to other human infestations such as lice and scabies, in which the pest resides on the host.

PROCEDURE:

When there is a possibility of bed bug infestation or known person(s) with bed bugs, the area involved will follow these guidelines:

- A. Go to the Procedure link here: http://health.uconn.edu/policies/wp-content/uploads/sites/28/2015/07/procedure_2014_02.pdf and follow the procedures exactly.
- B. Quarantine any areas where the person has been.
- C. Call Facilities at x2125 for inspection or exterminator response. Facilities Management is familiar with the policy and will manage the situation appropriately.

Grace Boucher (Signed)

8/15/14

Grace Boucher
Director
Quality and Performance Improvement for UMG

Date

Anne Diamond (Signed)

9/8/14

Anne Diamond, JD, CNMT
Chief Executive Officer (Interim)

Date

New Policy: 7/8/14