

PROCEDURE FOR BED BUG MANAGEMENT

1. Precautions

Standard Precautions apply to all patients including those known or suspected of having bed bugs.

2. Procedure for environmental control

If a bed bug infestation is suspected in the health care facility, the following environmental procedures are recommended:

- a. If possible, capture a bed bug and place it in a sealed container to assist pest management in their assessment. Call x2125 and give them the room number for documentation.
- b. Leave the suspect room intact without cleaning or removal of items (e.g., linens, furniture, equipment) to facilitate determination of the extent, if any, of the infestation and to prevent the spread of bugs to other areas.
- c. Close off the room or area from use, place signage (“Do Not Enter, Do Not Remove Equipment, Linen or Furniture from Room”).
- d. Notify Housekeeping Supervisor and Nursing Supervisor immediately (24/7) and Infection Prevention during normal business hours.
- e. Once control measures have been implemented, routine follow-up inspections are required to monitor the effectiveness of the treatments. Since bed bugs are well-adapted to hiding, repeated implementation of control measures and inspections are often necessary for complete eradication.

3. Procedure for suspected or diagnosed infestation for a hospital admission or ED visit

If bed bugs are found on the patient or in the patient's belongings, the following actions are required:

- a. Collect potential bed bugs in a sealed container and call x2125 for pick up.
- b. The patient should be showered or bathed; if unable to shower, the patient should be changed into hospital-laundered clothing, and be moved to a new room/area.
- c. Close off the old room or area from use and place appropriate signage (“Do Not Enter, Do Not Remove Equipment, Linen or Furniture from Room”) on closed door.
- d. Notify Housekeeping Supervisor and Nursing Supervisor immediately and Infection Prevention during normal business hours.

- e. Place all the patient's clothing and other belongings (except toiletries) into a sealed plastic bag. If the patient requests that the clothing be discarded, call Facilities to dispose of the clothing and document the patient's request in their chart. If the patient refuses to dispose of his/her belongings they will be stored in the sealed bag in the patient room for 24 hours. If the patient is in the ED and is discharged, a disposable garment or hospital pajamas can be given to the patient to wear home.
- f. Prior to discharge, discuss with the patient information on bed bug detection, prevention, and control.

4. Procedure for a suspected or diagnosed infestation in an outpatient setting

If the patient is in the facility for a clinic appointment or activity (outpatient) and is found to have bed bugs, the following actions need to occur:

- a. Contain patient belongings in a sealed plastic bag for the duration of their visit
- b. After the patient leaves the room or area, close the affected area for use with signage ("Do Not Enter, Do Not Remove Equipment, Linen or Furniture from Room").
- c. Notify Housekeeping Supervisor and Nursing Supervisor immediately and Infection Prevention during normal business hours.
- d. Discuss with the patient information on bed bug detection, prevention, and control.

5. Procedure for management of visitors

Visitors who reside in the same environment as the patient can be restricted from visiting the hospital at the discretion of the nursing supervisor or manager. Answers to the following questions can be used to help make this decision:

- a. Are bed bugs visible on the visitor?
- b. Does the patient or visitor state that the home is infested with bed bugs?
- c. Does the visitor describe characteristic bed bug bites on his/her extremities, neck or shoulders? In certain situations, when it is necessary for a family member to be present, the visitor can be asked to change into a hospital-issued disposable garment and their clothes sealed in a bag.

6. Procedure for Housekeeping

- a. Housekeeping to contact pest control to treat the room or area.
- b. Housekeeping and Nursing Supervisor to determine if further investigation is needed.

- c. Terminally clean the room or area following these procedures:
- 1) Staff person gowns up and also places disposable booties on feet.
 - 2) Remove all trash and double bag it.
 - 3) Remove linen and double bag.
 - 4) Remove curtain and double bag.
 - 5) Room is to be terminally cleaned with either alcohol, Steri-Fab or steam cleaner.
 - 6) After room is cleaned, exterminator is to be called for inspection of room before it is reopened.
- d. Log all incidents by calling x2125 to be reported to the exterminator for follow up action.

Images of the Common Bed Bug (*Cimex lectularius*):

Bed bug nymph on human arm while ingesting a blood meal



Picture of bed bug bites

