

Procedure Title	Pediculosis (Head Lice)		
Date of Issue	October 13, 1999	Related Policy	
Revision Dates	November 25, 2009	Related Forms	
Review Date	November 1, 2014	Originator	System Administrative Team
References			
Canadian Paediatric Society Grey Bruce Health Unit			

Procedure:

Rationale:

Most outbreaks of pediculosis humans capitis (head lice) occur in school children, particularly those of elementary school age. Pediculosis is not a health or education issue but is a community concern. Therefore, an administrative procedure regarding schools' approach to pediculosis is required.

While control of pediculosis is ultimately a family responsibility, schools have a role in encouraging families to take responsibility for pediculosis control and in partnership with the Health Unit, in educating families in prevention and control. Schools also have a role in preventing spread of pediculosis by following precautions at school which help to minimize spread in the schools.

Summary of Responsibilities in Management of Pediculosis (Head Lice)

1. School Responsibilities are:
 - to promote appropriate prevention measures in the control of head lice in the school environment
 - to be aware of symptoms indicating an infestation of head lice
 - to notify all parent(s)/guardian(s) of students in a classroom where a new infestation has been identified (Notification is advised within one working day)
 - to distribute to parent(s)/guardian(s) appropriate literature relating to de-infestation and control of head lice
 - to refer a parent requesting further information on head lice, to their family pharmacy
 - to consult with the family doctor or pharmacist in specific situations where control and/or treatment has become difficult
 - to encourage parents of students with identified infestation to follow the recommended treatment program

2. Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Responsibilities are:
 - to be aware of symptoms which indicate an infestation
 - to examine a student's head for possible infestations at regular intervals, e.g. at least weekly, after major school breaks, group events and attendance at camps
 - to notify the school of any infestations

- to ensure that both proper and full de-infestation, and that any other environmental control measures in the home, takes place within a reasonable length of time
- to indicate to the principal that a complete de-infestation has occurred

Reporting

Upon report or discovery of the presence of head lice the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the student involved will be notified.

Communication

An information package will be given to the parent(s)/guardian(s) outlining the process to be followed to eliminate the problem. All siblings should be screened by the parents.

A letter will be sent to the parent(s)/guardian(s) of other students in the class alerting parent(s)/guardian(s) to the need to check their children for pediculosis.

Screening

Each infested student will be screened upon completion of de-infestation.

The principal must stress to parent(s)/guardian(s) that it is a parental responsibility to detect and eliminate head lice. The school has guidelines to be followed and while school staff may assist parents in a supportive role, the ultimate responsibility must remain with the parent(s)/guardian(s).

Resources

The Grey Bruce Health Unit has developed resource packages regarding the management of head lice. One of the packages is specific for parent use and the other is more specific for teacher and volunteer use.

Another resource is the Canadian Paediatric Society at www.cps.ca