**I. Purpose**
To detect and immediately treat infestation of newly admitted patients and patients returning from therapeutic or unauthorized leave to that infestation will not spread to the facility and other patients and staff members.

**II. Scope**
Nursing

**III. Policy**
1. All newly admitted patients and patients returning from therapeutic or unauthorized leave will be assessed in the treatment room for the presence of vermin (bed bugs, lice, scabies) prior to entering the patient unit.
2. Any patient that is found to be infested with vermin will be treated, along with the patient’s belongings, and kept from contact with other patients until danger of transmitting vermin to others is passed.

**IV. Procedure**

**MAJOR STEPS**

1. Assessment of patients in Treatment Room

**KEYPOINTS**
1a. Any patient being admitted to the hospital and any patient returning from therapeutic leave or unauthorized leave will be escorted to the treatment room for assessment.

1b. RN will assess patient’s skin for any signs of vermin:
- Bites or itchy welts on skin of arms, legs, neck and face (often occurs in straight lines) – signs of bed bugs
- Scratches and “track” marks with redness and/or excoriations – signs of scabies
- White nits in hair, or scratching of scalp – lice

1c. Attendants will assess patient belongings for signs of bed bugs.
- Smell of rotting raspberries
- Dark spots on clothing that look like blood spots or fecal spots
- Presence of bed bugs

2. Bed Bug Infestation

2a. Patient is to be taken immediately to the shower on the unit, assuring that the patient washes entire body with soap and shampoo hair, using water that is as warm as the patient can tolerate. Patient is issued hospital clothing obtained from Central Supply until the patient’s clothing is laundered.

2b. Patient’s clothes are placed in non-permeable bags and placed in clothes dryer on high for at least 20 minutes. Then patient’s clothes are washed, and dried in dryer on high. (Bags can be obtained from Central Supply and will dissolve in the washer.)

2c. Patient belongings that are not able to be laundered are heat-treated in the

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All Nursing Policy Manuals

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Related Policies and Procedures
110.01 Admission of a Patient
ZappBug oven per manufacturer’s directions. The ZappBug oven is located in the 421 treatment room.

2d. Nursing Supervisor should be notified, as well as the attending or on-duty physician.

3. Lice Infestation

3a. Nurse notifies the attending or on-duty physician.
3b. Patient is treated per physician’s orders.
3c. Patient’s clothing is washed and dried in the clothes dryer on the high setting. Clothing that cannot be laundered or dried on high setting must be placed and sealed in plastic bags for at least 2 weeks.
3d. If a patient has already been in our facility, linens should also be washed and dried on high setting, and the bedroom should be thoroughly cleaned by housekeeping staff.

4. Scabies Infestation

4a. Nurse notifies the attending or on-duty physician for orders.
4b. Patient is treated per physician’s orders.
4c. Patient’s clothing is washed and dried in the clothes dryer on the high setting.
4d. If a patient has already been in our facility, linens should also be washed and dried on high setting, and the bedroom should be thoroughly cleaned by housekeeping staff.
4e. The entire cleaning process of clothing and room should be completed again in 1 week, and the patient should be rechecked in 2 weeks for signs of improvement. The bites may still be visible, but should be resolving and there should be no new bites visible.