

HOMWOOD HEALTH CENTRE INFECTION CONTROL MANUAL

POLICY/PROCEDURE

APPROVED BY: _____

NUMBER: 25

VP Patient Services and Clinical Education & CNO

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Bedbugs

Please refer to Policy 300: Routine Practices for additional information:

Policy

Homewood Health Centre (HHC) staff will have the tools and knowledge to safely and effectively provide patient care in circumstances where bed bugs are considered a risk. This policy will provide a consistent approach to monitoring and preventing the transmission of bedbugs throughout the facility.

Purpose/Rationale

Homewood recognizes:

- The growing concern related to increased bedbug infestations
- That we are a high risk facility given the environmental design and amount of personal belongings brought into the facility.
- The negative impact on the mental and physical health of patients experiencing bedbug infestation including sleep deprivation, fear, anxiety, skin reactions to bites (itchiness, welts and possible infection)
- The financial burden of controlling infestations.
- That bedbugs are NOT associated with the transmission of human disease.

Background information important to the management strategies:

- Bedbugs only feed on blood but can remain dormant for a year
- Bed bugs do not fly or jump. They only crawl and hitch rides on backpacks, clothing, staff equipment, furniture, bedding and luggage.
- Bed bugs do not chew through anything. This means that if you store an item in a pest proof container, it remains bed bug free (i.e. a Ziploc bag)
- Bedbugs can be killed by temperature extremes including heat to 60°C core temperature or freeze for 5-7 days below 0°C at core. Clothes can be rid of bedbugs by placing them into a hot dryer for 20 min.

- Heat can be an effective tool in eliminating items that are not amenable to treatment with pesticides.
- Eggs are more resistant to cold than adults and need longer exposure.
- It is harder to eradicate bedbugs if the premises are unsanitary and cluttered.

Method

- **De-clutter** patient's room as much as possible before treatment of bedbugs.
- **Seal and contain**, in plastic, all possibly infested items before removal from affected room. This will ensure bedbugs do not escape to infest other areas. Items that can not be discarded, sprayed, washed or steam cleaned must be placed in a sealed, marked plastic bag and stored until the patient is discharged or items can be taken home.
- **Mark** the bags for disposal to deter others from taking home. Place directly in garbage bin.
- **Wash** all clothing in hot water, detergent, and place in a hot dryer for at least 20 minutes or until dry. Keep cleaned linens and clothing in pest proof bags until the premise is treated.

Responsibility/ Accountability

All staff, students and volunteers must:

- Take precautions so that bedbugs are not taken from the workplace and spread to Employees' vehicles, home or other worksites (see Appendix 1).
- Report to their immediate supervisor:
 - Sightings or suspicions of bed bugs in inpatient rooms or client homes
 - Patient/Client reports of suspected bed bugs or suspicious bites.
 - Staff who suspect that they have been infested with bedbugs during the scope of their duties at HHC. Also report to Occupational Health.
- Collect any bugs found in a sterile container and notify Housekeeping Services (ext. 2174) for identification process.

Housekeeping Services

- Respond to pest complaints and potential sightings and assess risk of infestation and inspect all surfaces for bugs, including lamp, mattress, sheets, night table, and upholstered furniture (including all undersides) for visible bugs. Routine and Terminal Room cleaning protocol is posted in housekeeping closets.
- Implement appropriate measures based on Appendix 2. If deemed necessary:
 - Coordinate treatment with professional pest control services as necessary; liaise between pest control and hospital staff in the affected area
 - Place two sided tape on legs of bed to help identify species and tape across any entrance area of the room to help prevent spread from room to room. Inspect regularly.
 - Place all items in a sealed plastic bag before transporting out of the room for disposal. If the mattress is to be disposed of ensure it is completely wrapped and sealed in heavy plastic before leaving the room.
 - Place all bed linen in a regular, sealed, plastic linen bag and send to

central laundry.

- All window and privacy drapes should be cleaned in-house. Use sealed plastic bag for transporting to washer.
- Clean and disinfect all furniture, cupboards etc. including bed.
- Move wall pictures, electrical outlet covers and furniture out from walls.
- Vacuum room thoroughly, along carpet edges, baseboards and corners.
- Change vacuum bag after use and dispose in a sealed, marked plastic bag, directly into the garbage bin.
- Clean vacuum canister with cleaning detergent.
- Steam clean carpet with hot water extraction unit and or steam machine. Include all cracks /crevices in the room where bedbug eggs may be found.
- Place two sided tape in doorways and close off room for one full day.
- Repeat steps above if pests are still present.

Infection Prevention and Control

- Ongoing support to staff and patients with education and counseling regarding prevention and treatment of bedbugs.
- Assist with development and revisions of hospital policies.

See appendix 2 for flow sheet on management of inpatients.

References

CAMH Community Support and Research Unit (2010) *Bed Bug Resource Manual: General Information*

St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton (2010), *Environmental Services Procedure for Bed Bugs*
Vancouver Coastal Health (2007), *Bedbug Policy*

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Appendix 1: How to Prevent Bedbug Infestation

<u>General Concepts</u>	<u>Method</u>
<p>Provide a barrier between:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • yourself and potentially infested surfaces 	<p>Use personal protective equipment (PPE) as per routing practices when providing direct care. Note: <i>The PPE must then be considered infested and stored in a pest proof container.</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • your insect free personal/work related items and potentially infested surfaces 	<p>Only take what is absolutely necessary into a potentially infested situation. Place personal/work related <u>items that must be accessible</u> on a light coloured surface (i.e. white plastic bag). This gives opportunity to see approaching adult bedbugs. Otherwise place your items in a pest proof container (i.e. giant Ziploc bag). Use a plastic Tupperware container with at lid, in the trunk of your car for transport of supplies, charts etc. from client's home back to the office.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • your potentially infested personal/work related items and insect free surfaces 	<p>To minimize the chance of bringing bedbugs to the office when returning from a client's home you must consider appropriate storage in the office. Put (potentially) infested items in a contained situation (i.e. double sided tape on the edges of the Tupperware style container so that any hitchhiking bedbugs remain inside the container).</p>
<p>If prevention is not possible then items/ clothing must be cleared on any hitchhiking bedbugs.</p>	<p>Inspect clothing/equipment for bedbugs and eggs. Wear:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Light coloured clothing or use lighter coloured items for ease of visibility of bedbugs. • Pants without cuffs or multiple pockets. • Shoes without laces or threads. Brush shoes off with a stiff brush then place in a plastic Ziploc baggie. • Separate work and home clothes <p>Reserve care to end of the day for clients in bedbug infested rooms Remove work clothing immediately upon getting home and put directly in the dryer on a hot setting for 20 minutes. Shower. Use a lint roller on clothing Decrease hiding spots in your purchase choices (cracks and crevices).</p>
<p>Avoid contact with areas more likely to be infested (i.e. bed, bed frame and upholstered furniture).</p>	<p>Do not sit on upholstered furniture or beds. Inspect upholstered furniture and beds routinely.</p>
<p>Utilize appropriate room design in areas where the general public has access.</p>	<p>Furniture should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have minimal cracks and crevices • Be easily cleanable (including the floor surfaces) • Be light coloured enough to see adult bugs • <i>Not</i> be upholstered, or regularly inspected and vacuumed. <p>If it is known that client has a bedbug infestation at home</p>

	<p>and the service can not be delayed until after pest control has dealt with the infestation, take the following precautions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct the individual to an area with in the office easiest to clear of bedbugs after the client has left (uncluttered, minimal cracks and crevices, easily cleanable floors and furniture. • Vacuum entire room and furniture promptly after client has left. Vacuum bags should be bagged and discarded.
<p>Transporting Clients in Personal Vehicle While at Work <i>This is in addition to above general guidelines</i></p>	
<p>1. If client is known to have bedbugs, explore other options to transporting the client in the vehicle (can the service be delayed or come to the client? Is there an alternative to the service? Can the client walk? Is there an alternative, more cleanable form of transportation available?).</p>	
<p>2. Client should be asked to have a shower/bath and don clean, light coloured clothes (not from the infested home) prior to transporting.</p>	
<p>3. Any personal items should be placed in a pest proof container for transport (i.e. Ziploc bag). Observe client to ensure no bedbugs are visible prior to transport.</p>	
<p>4. Utilize white plastic protective cover on car seats to minimize transfer of bedbugs to vehicle. Discard plastic after each transport.</p>	

The following is the contents of Community Bedbug Kits which are assembled and managed by end user through Materials Management:

Guelph and South Wellington ACT Team Bed Bug Kits 2015	
Quantity	Item
5	Gloves (pair)
1	Shoe covers (pair)
1	White plastic table cloth
5	Ziploc bags
5	Clear garbage bags
1	Specimen bottle
1	Lint Roller
1	Glue board (2 per pkg)
1	Two sided tape
1	Protective coverall
1	Vaseline tube
1	Raid bug spray

Appendix 2: **Bedbug Treatment Procedure for Inpatients**

