



Epidemiology Department Infection Control Isolation Manual

SUBJECT: Bed Bugs <i>Cimex Lectilarius</i>	MANUAL CODE: 88	Page 1 of 2
ORIGINAL: September 2010	SUPERSEDES: New	

PURPOSE: To prevent and eliminate bed bug infestation.

The common bed bug is a wingless, red-brown, blood-sucking insect. Bed bugs hide in cracks and crevices in beds, wooden furniture, floors and walls during the daytime and emerge at night to feed on their preferred host, humans.

Bed bugs are small and easily overlooked. They appear as flat as a piece of paper. The adults can live for six months without food (blood from bites). Their appearance dramatically changes after feeding; they become bloated and dark red. Bed bugs have a tendency to cluster together; therefore you may find adults, young and eggs in the same location.

Bed bugs are not known to transmit disease to humans.

POLICY:

Transmission: Bed bugs cannot fly or jump and cannot climb metal or polished surfaces. They are transported and can spread through luggage, second-hand mattresses, infested furniture and clothing. Bed bugs are rarely found on affected persons or their clothing.

Clinical Manifestations: Bed bug bites can result in clinical manifestations; the most common are small clusters of extremely pruritic erythematous papules or wheals. Bites should be managed symptomatically with topical emollients, topical corticosteroids, oral antihistamines, or some combination of these treatments.

Prevention Strategies:

1. Maintain a clean and clutter free environment to eliminate shelter for bed bugs.
2. Refrain from hoarding excess clothing and linen in closets, which may also serve as shelter for bed bugs.
3. Follow the procedure for securing bags of patient's personal items (refer to Nursing Policy P-6). Clothing, etc should not be left at the nursing stations, clean utility or medication rooms.
4. Discourage the use of personal patient bedding from home, such as blankets and pillows.
5. Report any torn mattresses or furniture cushions to Building Services and take it out of service.
6. Make attempts not to move furniture between patient rooms.

Procedure for Control:

1. Retain the insect in a plastic specimen container for identification by the exterminator. Wear gowns and gloves.
2. Notify the nurse manager, Building Service and Infection Control.
3. Building Service will contact the contracted pest control company to inspect the potentially affected room(s)
4. Place the patient in a room by him/her self until cleared by Infection Control.
5. Examine the patient for bed bugs, not just bites if not already evident. The patient should be showered or washed and changed into a clean gown and hospital socks.
6. Secure the patient's belongings in a plastic bag, sealed with tape. Label **DO NOT OPEN – BED BUGS**. Request that a family member remove these items. Items that are not removed by the family should remain sealed in the patient closet or discarded with the consent of the patient. Alert housekeeping.
7. Once the patient has been cleaned and his personal items are secured in plastic, remove him/her to a clean room.
8. The affected room and any items in it should be closed until inspected and potentially treated by the exterminator.
9. Exterminator will handle the room according to the AKA Pest Control Bedbug policy.
10. If there is no indication for treatment per AKA, the exterminator will set monitors as per their protocol. The room may need to be closed until monitors are checked the next day. Building Services will confer with the exterminator.
11. If the exterminator treats the room, it will remain closed as per their instructions.
12. After such time has elapsed, the room will be terminally cleaned by LMC housekeeping and returned to use.

REFERENCES:

Hwang, et al. Bed Bug Infestations in an Urban Environment. Emerging Infectious Diseases. 2005, April; 11 (3): 533-538

AKA Pest Control Bedbug policy