**TREATMENT GUIDELINES FOR HEALTH STAFF**

**PUBIC LICE (Pediculosis pubis)**

Authorized health and wellness staff may treat pubic lice as follows:

# 1. Pharmacologic regimens include:

* Permethrin 1% creme rinse (Nix) applied topically to infested area until entirely wet, then thoroughly washed off after 10 minutes.

**OR**

* Pyrethrins with piperonyl butoxide (Rid) applied topically to infested area until entirely wet, then thoroughly washed off after 10 minutes.
* Alternative regimen: Ivermectin 250 µg/kg po once with food, repeated in 7-14 days.
* Petrolatum ointment (Vaseline) applied topically twice daily for 10 days for infestation of the eyelashes.
* Oral antihistamines (diphenhydramine/Benadryl **or** hydroxyzine/Atarax, Vistaril) can be given to reduce itching.

# 2. Non-Pharmacologic regimens include:

* Bedding and clothing recently worn should be decontaminated (either machine-washed in hottest water and machine-dried on hottest cycle for 20 minutes or dry-cleaned). Items that cannot be washed should be stored in a sealed plastic bag for 2 weeks. Fumigation of living areas is **not** necessary.
* Although the nits/eggs are dead, they may stay tightly adherent. Wet hair with warm vinegar and water 50:50 mixture. After 30 minutes, rinse hair and then mechanically remove nits with a fine-toothed comb.
* Sexually active students with pediculosis should also be evaluated for other STDs and educated to avoid sexual contact until both they, and their sexual partner(s) have been successfully treated. Sex partners within the last month should be treated for lice and also evaluated for other STDs. (It may take 2-3 weeks for adult lice to appear after exposure.)
* Follow up with students after 1 week to see if symptoms persist. Retreatment with an alternative regimen is indicated if lice are found or if new nits/eggs are observed at the hair-skin junction.

**Notes:** (1) These treatment guidelines apply to head lice as well as pubic lice.

(2) Lindane is no longer recommended for treatment of pediculosis.

**Reference:** <https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/pubic/treatment.html>

**WHEN TO REFER TO CENTER PHYSICIAN**

* If above treatments fail to resolve lice infestation
* If there is a need for other STD evaluation