



ADULT Pharmacological Protocol for Pediculosis (lice) & Scabies
Methodist Healthcare – Memphis Hospitals
Infection Control Policy

DATE & TIME	PHYSICIAN'S ORDERS AND DIET	DATE & TIME	PROGRESS RECORD
			Note Progress of Case, Complications, Consultations, Change Diagnosis, Condition on Discharge, Instructions to Patient.

PHYSICIAN: Write order for “Lice/scabies treatment per protocol.”

PHARMACIST: Input orders into computer for permethrin.

For lice: input “PRN” orders for 7 days later with note: “Contact pharmacy for dose if live lice still present”

For scabies: input “PRN” orders for 14 days later with note: “Contact pharmacy for dose if live mites still present”

Dispense permethrin 1% (NIX) with “nit comb”

NURSE: Contact Infection Control.
See Protocol below.

Protocol - Head Lice:

- Wash hair, rinse with water, towel dry
- Apply 1% permethrin - Use sufficient volume to saturate hair and scalp
- Leave drug in contact with hair for 10 minutes
- Rinse with water
- Remove nits using “nit comb” while hair is still wet
- Repeat application if live lice present 7 days after initial treatment

Individuals should remove the nits for aesthetic reasons or to decrease diagnostic confusion. A fine toothed “nit comb” can be used to make nit removal easier. The comb should be used on wet hair in order to remove the nits; combing dry hair does not seem to have the same effect.

Protocol - Scabies:

- Apply 30 grams of 5% permethrin for the average adult - no prior bathing is required
- Apply to entire skin from jawline downwards, including all skin folds, groin, navel, external genitalia, and the skin under the nails

- Remove 8 to 14 hours after application by washing
- Repeat application if living mites present 14 days after initial treatment

Pregnancy:

Permethrin (or pyrethrins with piperonyl butoxide) is the treatment of choice for pubic lice in pregnant women as designated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Although not specifically mentioned, permethrin could also be used if other body areas of a pregnant woman are infested with lice (i.e., the head). It is classified as pregnancy category B.

Initiated per order of Dr. _____ / _____ RN