



Control of Pediculosis

Approved: 81-046

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REFERENCES

- Grey Bruce Health Unit: PUBLIC HEALTH Notes: January 23, 2009 Head Lice Management
- Canadian Paediatric Society revised Position Statement

RELATED FORMS/PROCEDURES/DOCUMENTS

POLICY STATEMENT

The Board endorses the guidelines outlined below which have been provided by the local Health Units.

In accordance with the following position statement issued by the Canadian Paediatric Society exclusion of students because of a “Head Lice Infestation” is no longer a requirement. The following excerpt from the statement pertains to School and Daycare head lice and nit policies.

“Exclusion from school and daycare due to the detection of the presence of ‘nits’ does not have sound medical rationale. Even the detection of active head lice should not lead to the exclusion of the affected child. Treatment should be recommended and close head-to-head contact should be discouraged pending treatment.....Families of children in the classroom where a case of active head lice has been detected should be alerted that an active infestation has been noted, and informed about the diagnosis, misdiagnosis and management of head lice, and the lack of risk for serious disease.”

The Grey Bruce Health Unit supports this position and concur that there is no medical reason to exclude students from school due to head lice.

POLICY REGULATIONS

1. Role of the School :
 - a) to be aware of the symptoms which might indicate an infestation.
 - b) to identify students with suspected infestations.
 - c) to ensure that the principal is notified of suspected infestations.
 - d) to promote preventative practices to avoid further infestation.
 - e) to ensure that the parents are notified of the identified infestation and the recommended treatment.
 - f) to ensure that those identified are treated before re-infestation.
 - g) to send home a general letter to all parents of students in a classroom after discovery of one case.
 - h) to distribute to parent(s)/guardian(s) appropriate literature relating to de-infestation and control of head lice

- i) to convene a committee of volunteers to perform regular classroom checks

2. Role of the Parent :

- a) to be aware of the symptoms which might indicate in infestation.
- b) to identify suspected infestations.
- c) to notify the school of any infestations.
- d) to ensure that proper and full treatment occurs.
- e) to indicate to the principal that proper and full treatment has occurred.

PEDICULOSIS - A FAMILY RESPONSIBILITY

In the past, the Public Health Unit was involved in teaching educators and parents, both individually and in groups, about head lice identification and treatment. This service is no longer provided. Pediculosis is not a health issue but rather a community concern. Control of pediculosis is a family responsibility.

Resources

The Grey Bruce Health Unit has developed resource packages regarding the management of head lice. One of the packages is specific for parent use and the other is more specific for teacher and volunteer use.

Another resource is the Canadian Paediatric Society at www.cps.ca