

## Body or Clothing Lice Infestation (Treatment)

See Infection Control Manual, Ectoparasites section for practical details.

### Body or clothing lice

These lice may be found in patients who rarely change clothing. The lice and eggs are found on clothing, particularly in seams: they move onto the body to feed. If clothing is not worn for three weeks, the lice will die of starvation. Look for long scratches on the body, near seams.

### Treatment

- Remove all clothing.
- Tumble dry clothing on a hot setting for 30 minutes, then wash clothes on normal cycle.
- Insecticides are not required.
- Skin irritation may be treated with calamine lotion, crotamiton cream or oral antihistamines.