I. PURPOSE

To outline procedures for treating Ectoparasite infestation.

II. POLICY

It is the policy of the Iowa Department of Corrections (IDOC) to diagnose, treat, and prevent Ectoparasite infestation in the correctional setting.

III. DEFINITIONS

A. Ectoparasite - Parasites, such as pediculosis and scabies that live on or within the skin and are communicable and may lead to secondary infections.

B. Pediculosis may be caused by any of three organisms, Pediculus humanus var. capitis (head), Pediculus humanus var. corporis (body) and Phthirus pubis (pubic “crabs”). Diagnosis is based on pruritis, which is localized for head and pubic lice and generalized for body lice. The presence of lice and/or nits (eggs or larvae) confirms a diagnosis. If pubic lice are found, the head should be...
examined to determine the presence of nits on the scalp, eye lashes, eyebrows or mustache.

C. Scabies - Infestation of the skin caused by the mite Sarcoptes scabiei var. hominis. A presumptive diagnosis may be made from the burrows which appear as grayish-black lines from one to ten mm. in length, although they are frequently not evident. Although the burrows can be found in any location, there may be a distinct pattern which in adults involves the webbing between the fingers, the flexor aspect of the wrists, gluteal folds and/or feet. Secondary lesions from scratching may disguise the burrows. Itching is a major complaint.

D. See IDOC Policy AD-GA-16 for additional Definitions.

IV. PROCEDURE

A. For treatment of head lice, the offender should be instructed to shower and wash their hair with shampoo, rinse it with water, and towel dry the hair. A sufficient volume of pediculicide is applied in order to saturate the hair and scalp. A crème rinse, shampoo/conditioner, or a conditioner should not be used prior to applying the pediculicide. The product should remain in the hair and on the scalp for the length of time recommended by the manufacturer. The offender must then shower and rinse the hair. Clean clothing and linen should be given to the offender following treatment. (4-4354-0)

1. For the treatment of head lice, explain the Lice and Scabies Protocol/Officer Checklist, HSF-902, to the offender and give the form to the offender’s living unit officer.

2. The solution should remain in the hair and on the scalp for ten minutes.

3. The offender should use a fine-toothed comb to mechanically remove nits.

4. The hair should not be washed for one to two days after rinsing the Permethrin 1% from the hair. The offender should comb through his/her hair every two to three days after the initial treatment until followed up.

B. For treatment of body lice, the offender is instructed to shower and then apply a pediculicide to the body from the neck downward. The product is left on the body for the length of time recommended by the manufacturer. This is followed by a second shower. Clean clothing and linen should be given to the offender following treatment and again following the second shower.
1. For the treatment of body lice, explain the *Lice and Scabies Protocol/Officer Checklist, HSF-902*, to the offender and give the form to the offender’s living unit officer.

2. The medication is left on for eight hours followed by a second shower.

3. White petrolatum gel may be applied to eye lashes twice daily for eight days followed by removal of nits if affected.

C. For treatment of scabies, the offender is instructed to shower and then apply a scabicide to the body from the neck downward, including the soles of the feet. The product is left on the body for the length of time recommended by the manufacturer. This is followed by a second shower. Clean clothing and linen should be given to the offender following treatment and again following the second shower. Itching persisting for 1-2 weeks after treatment should not be regarded as a sign of drug failure or re-infestation.

1. For treatment of scabies, explain the *Lice and Scabies Protocol/Officer Checklist, HSF-902*, to the offender and give the form to the offender’s living unit officer.

2. The medication is left on for eight hours followed by a second shower.

D. Clothing, bedding, towels and other washable items should be laundered utilizing temperatures of 140º to 160º F. Combs, brushes and similar personal items should be disinfected.

E. Retreatment after 7-10 days may be necessary to assure that no eggs or mites have survived. Offender is to be scheduled for follow-up exam after seven days.

F. Offender exposure to a pediculicide should be kept at a minimum since this substance has a potential for toxicity. Eyes should be flushed with water if they become contaminated with the solution. The completed *Lice and Scabies Protocol/Officer Checklist, HSF-902*, should be returned to Health Services and retained for three months.

G. The *Lice and Scabies Protocol/Officer Checklist, HSF-902*, should be used as instructions for the offender’s living unit officer. The officer should initial and date as each step is completed and then return the completed checklist to Health Services. This form should be retained for three months and then destroyed.