



Scabies Expert Advisory Group consensus on clinical, environmental, Infection Prevention and Control and contact tracing parameters for scabies.

Version 1.0

23rd February 2024

This document sets out consensus opinions agreed by an ad hoc Expert Advisory Group on scabies. It is available for use in the prevention, detection, and control of scabies. This process was undertaken, as the evidence base for parameters relevant to the control of scabies (such as contact definition, environmental cleaning etc), is not strong, and advice is not consistent currently. This document is a record of consensus opinions achieved by the Expert Advisory Group. Members of the Expert Advisory Group are listed in Appendix A.

When used in different settings, this document provides consistency to clinical and public health advice and the content of patient information leaflets.

Consensus opinion process.

The consensus opinions agreed by the Expert Advisory Group were based upon the consensus development conference method. Their term of reference was to review and provide consensus opinion on infection prevention and control, contact definition and management, and clinical parameters regarding scabies in Ireland. The group met on two occasions (December 2023 and January 2024). Following review of each parameter at the meetings, the consensus opinions approved by a majority of those present (50% membership plus one additional person) were accepted, and the minority agreed with the course of action, potentially with some modifications. Members who were not in attendance also had the opportunity to provide feedback by email.

Out of scope:

This expert advisory group did not review clinical assessment and treatment advice, including treatment shortages, which is available at [Scabies - HSE.ie](https://www.hse.ie/scabies). This resource is a collaboration between HSE Community Antimicrobial Pharmacists, the HSE Antimicrobial Resistance and Infection Control (AMRIC) team and the Information Specialist with HSE Research and Evidence. The HSE AMRIC Oversight Group, chaired by the Chief Clinical Officer, provides organisational oversight and governance for it and it is available for both primary care and hospitals.

Scabies EAG Decision Log

Question for consensus review	Consensus achieved – consensus development conference method	Sources supporting decision
Following primary infestation, when does the onset of symptoms occur?	Symptoms occur 3 to 6 weeks following primary infestation	5,6,7,9
Where should topical treatment be applied for adults (not elderly/immunocompromised/child)?	Consensus view at meeting on 15/12/2023 based on information presented was that, in general, topical treatment should be applied from jawline/ear/neck downwards. This consensus aligns with the manufacturers' Summary of Product	1,5,8,10,13,14,16,22,24,27, 28



Question for consensus review	Consensus achieved – consensus development conference method	Sources supporting decision
	Characteristics (SPC) and a number of guidance documents/patient information resources.	
How many applications of topical treatment should be used for classical scabies and when to apply?	Two applications of treatment. Second treatment to be applied 7 days after the first application.	1,2,3,4,7,12,13,14,17,18,19
How many applications of topical treatment should be used for crusted scabies?	Seek specialist advice from specialist clinicians (dermatology or microbiology) if crusted scabies is suspected.	1,5,6
How many applications of topical treatment should be used for contacts and when to apply?	Two applications of treatments. Second treatment to be applied 7 days after the first application.	6
When can a person return to work/school following treatment?	Return to school or work 24 hours after first treatment has been applied.	1,6,12,13,19,20,21,22
When should a case seek further medical advice?	Seek advice if there are signs of a skin infection (i.e. secondary bacterial skin infection – skin red/sore/hot), if patient is unwell, or if they are not improving 4 weeks following correct application of treatment and completion of other recommended measures	20,22
How long does itch last post treatment?	Itch may last up to 4 weeks following correct treatment application.	5,8,20,22
Definition of household contacts of a case? (i.e. for case occurring in a private household)	All household members with close personal contact in the six weeks prior to diagnosis of the index case.	9,14,21,22,24 Six-week time period based on consensus achieved on Q1 above.
Definition of sexual contacts of a case?	All sexual contacts in the six weeks prior to diagnosis of the index case.	4 Six-week time period based on consensus achieved for Q1 above
Definition of contacts of cases in health care/residential settings/congregate settings	A contact of a single case in healthcare or residential setting is anyone, six weeks prior to diagnosis of the index case, with one or more of: 1. Close physical contact (prolonged direct skin to skin for 10-15 minutes) with the case without appropriate PPE.	6 Six-week time period based on consensus achieved for Q1 above.



Question for consensus review	Consensus achieved – consensus development conference method	Sources supporting decision
	2. Sharing a room or other similar household setting. 3. Sexual partners.	
What are the laundry recommendations for scabies?	Wash clothing, bedding and towels in a minimum 50 degrees Celsius wash cycle, OR alternatively 50 degrees Celsius tumble dry for 30 minutes on the first day of treatment.	25
What alternative can be used for items that cannot be washed or tumble dried?	Seal items in a bag for 4 days without removing anything during this time period. These items may include shoes, outdoor clothing such as coats, hats and gloves, soft toys and removable covers of child car seats/buggy.	26
What environmental cleaning is required for classical scabies cases?	Cleaning should be undertaken for items which have had prolonged direct contact with the skin, for example vacuuming of a sofa or a mattress if being used without a sheet covering. If duvets and pillows were not completely covered with a pillowcase or duvet cover, and there has been skin contact with them, these items should be sealed in a plastic bag for 4 days.	Extensive discussion among members during Expert Advisory Group Meeting
What environmental cleaning is required for crusted scabies cases?	More regular vacuuming and a thorough clean after treatment cycles (for example, damp dusting soft furnishings, cleaning touch points, vacuuming mattresses and so on) should be considered due to the increased shedding of skin associated with this form of scabies	6
Is isolation recommended for classical scabies cases?	Isolate for 24hrs after first treatment has been applied.	1,6,12,13,19, 20,21,22
Is isolation recommended for crusted scabies cases?	Seek specialist advice from dermatology or microbiology if crusted scabies is suspected.	1, 5, 6
IPC Measures: What PPE is required by healthcare workers when caring for patients with classical scabies?	Wear gloves for skin-to-skin contact. Refer to National Clinical Guideline No. 30 Infection Prevention and Control and the IPC Point of Care Risk Assessment (PCRA) for further advice on standard and contact precautions	3,6,11
IPC Measures: What PPE is required by healthcare workers when caring for patients with crusted scabies?	Contact precautions are advised in cases of crusted scabies, such as during close personal care and handling, where there is skin contact with the patients' skin, infested linen, or clothing. For example, the use of long sleeve gowns or sleeve protectors may be beneficial to reduce the risk of transmission. Refer to National Clinical Guideline No. 30 Infection Prevention and Control and the IPC Point of Care Risk Assessment (PCRA) for further advice on standard and caution precautions	3,5,6,7,11



This document will be reviewed again in 2027. The Research and Guidance Development Unit may undertake a more rapid update if new and relevant evidence is published.

Scabies Guidance and Patient Information Leaflets (PILs) reviewed (Irish and International)

1. Health Service Executive (HSE) Antibiotic Prescribing (Nov 2023)
<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/2/gp/antibiotic-prescribing/conditions-and-treatments/skin-soft-tissue/scabies/>
2. Health Service Executive (HSE) Departments of Public Health and Infection Control HSE South (Cork/Kerry) Diagnosis and Treatment for Healthcare Professionals DPH South (updated May2011)
<https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/healthwellbeing/infectcont/sth/gl/diagnosis-and-treatment-for-health-professionals.pdf>
3. Health Service Executive (HSE) Departments of Public Health and Infection Control HSE South (Cork/Kerry) Management of Scabies in Health and Social Care Settings DPH South (updated May 2011)
<https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/healthwellbeing/infectcont/sth/gl/management-of-scabies-in-health-and-social-care-settings.pdf>
4. Department of Public Health HSE Dublin and Midlands Managing scabies in Residential Care Facilities (October 2022)
<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/5/publichealth/publichealthdepts/pub/scabies-algorithm-oct-2022.pdf>
5. National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) Clinical Knowledge Summaries (CKS) Scabies (last revised July 2023) <https://www.nice.org.uk/cks-uk-only#!topicSummary>
6. United Kingdom Health Security Agency (UKHSA) Guidance on the management of scabies cases and outbreaks in long-term care facilities and other closed settings (updated January 2023) <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/scabies-management-advice-for-health-professionals/ukhsa-guidance-on-the-management-of-scabies-cases-and-outbreaks-in-long-term-care-facilities-and-other-closed-settings>
7. British Association for Sexual Health and HIV (BASHH) 2016 UK National Guideline on the Management of Scabies <https://www.bashhguidelines.org/media/1137/scabies-2016.pdf>
8. British Medical Journal (BMJ) Best Practice Scabies (Last updated March 2023) <https://bestpractice.bmj.com/topics/en-gb/124>
9. European Guidelines for Management of Scabies (2017)
<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jdv.14351>
10. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Sexually Transmitted Infection Treatment Guidelines (updated 2021) <https://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment-guidelines/STI-Guidelines-2021.pdf>
11. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) CDC Scabies Resources for Health Professionals- Institutional Settings (last reviewed November 2010)
https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/scabies/health_professionals/institutions.html.
12. Health Service Executive (HSE) Health A-Z Scabies <https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/scabies/>
13. Health Service Executive (HSE) Antimicrobial Resistance and Infection Control (AMRIC) Clinical Programme Scabies - Patient Information
<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/2/gp/antibiotic-prescribing/conditions-and-treatments/skin-soft-tissue/scabies/scabies-pil-february-2022.pdf>



14. Department of Public Health and Department of Infection Control and Nursing HSE South
2011 Patient Information Leaflet- Scabies: How is it treated?
<https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/healthwellbeing/infectcont/sth/info/scabies-information-leaflet.pdf>
15. World Health Organization (WHO) Newsroom-Factsheets-Scabies
<https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/scabies>
16. Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Scabies Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) FAQ's
https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/scabies/gen_info/faqs.html#:~:text=Scabies%20usually%20is%20spread%20by,adults%20frequently%20is%20sexually%20acquired.
17. British Association of Dermatology Patient Information Leaflet Scabies (Updated October 2023) <https://badmainstage.wpengine.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Scabies-update-PIL-Oct2023.pdf>
18. Patient.info. UK Scabies (Last updated May 2023) <https://patient.info/skin-conditions/skin-rashes/scabies#:~:text=Scabies%20mites&text=They%20have%20a%20cream%2Dcoloured,the%20skin%20and%20lay%20eggs.>
19. National Health Service (NHS) Health A-Z - Scabies (Last reviewed Nov 2023)
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/scabies/#:~:text=The%20scabies%20rash%20usually%20spreads,and%20soles%20of%20their%20feet>
20. National Health Service (NHS) Wales (GIG Cymru) Patient Ailments Service Scabies Patient information leaflet (May 2023) <https://www.wmic.wales.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/CAS-PIL-Scabies-v3-20.07.23.pdf>
21. National Health Service (NHS) The Shrewsbury & Telford Hospital NHS Trust Patient Information Scabies (August 2019) <https://www.sath.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Scabies-Patient-Information-Leaflet.pdf>
22. Government of Alberta MyHealth.Alberta.ca Scabies (March 2023)
<https://myhealth.alberta.ca/Health/Pages/conditions.aspx?hwid=hw171811&lang=en-ca>
23. Healthdirect Australia Scabies (Last reviewed August 2021)
<https://www.healthdirect.gov.au/scabies>
24. Healthlink BC (British Columbia) Scabies (March 2023)<https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/health-topics/scabies#:~:text=Scabies%20mites%20spread%20from%20person,members%20at%20the%20same%20time.>
25. Bernigaud C, Fernando DD, Lu H, Taylor S, Hartel G, Chosidow O, Fischer K. 'How to eliminate scabies parasites from fomites: a high-throughput ex vivo experimental study.' Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology 2019: volume 83, issue 1, pages 241 to 245.
doi.10.1016/j.jaad.2019.11.069
26. Pallesen K, Lassen JA, Munk NT, Hartmeyer GN, Hvid L, Bygum A. 'In vitro survival of scabies mites.' Clinical and Experimental Dermatology 2020: volume 45, issue 6, pages 712 to 715. doi: 10.1111/ced.14209.
27. Health Products Regulatory Authority Summary of Product Characteristics Lycllear 5% w/w Dermal Cream https://www.hpra.ie/img/uploaded/swedocuments/Licence_PA1077-066-001_16062021103839.pdf
28. Health Products Regulatory Authority Summary of Product Characteristics SPC Derbac M Liquid 0.5% w/w cutaneous emulsion .
http://www.hpra.ie/img/uploaded/swedocuments/Licence_PA22702-001-001_08122022120559.pdf



Appendix A

Membership

Name	Role
Ciara Martin	National Clinical Advisor and Group lead for Children and young People
David Hanlon	National Clinical Advisor and Group Lead for Primary Care
Anne Marie Tobin	Consultant Dermatologist in Tallaght University Hospital and National Clinical Lead for Dermatology
Eavan Muldoon	Consultant in ID MMUH / National Clinical lead for Clinical Programme in ID & OPAT HSE
Fiona Lyons	Consultant in GU and HIV Medicine, National Clinical Lead Sexual Health
Annmarie White	SpR Sexual Health, St James GUIDE Clinic
Patrice Bowe	Director of Nursing, Infection Prevention and Control, Children's Health Ireland
Eimear Brannigan	AMRIC Clinical Lead
Paul Ryan	Antimicrobial Resistance & Infection Control (AMRIC)GP Lead
Martina Connolly	Assistant Director of Nursing (ADON) for AMRIC
Aileen Kitching	National Clinical Lead, national Social Inclusion Office (NSIO)
Claire Dunne	National Social Inclusion Office (NSIO) SMO
Anne McNally	Director of Nursing – National Infectious Diseases Isolation Facility
Angela (Angy) Skuce	Medical Director, Safetynet Primary Care
Anne McMenamain	HSE A-Z
Steve Cummins	Contact Lead Design HSE A-Z
Peter Barrett	CPHM si Health Protection HSE - South West
Tessa O'Gorman	SpR Public Health Medicine HSE-South West
Eddie Horgan	SMO Public Health, HSE - South West
Derval Igoe	Consultant in Public Health Medicine (CPHM) si Health Protection, HSE Public Health: National Health Protection Office(NHPO)
Aideen McLoughlin	Administrator National Health Protection Office (NHPO)
Hilda Matthews	Administrator National Health Protection Office (NHPO)
Kristin Concannon	Programme Manager National Health Protection Office (NHPO)
Jane Salmon	Senior Medical Officer Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC)
Emma Coughlan	Clinical Nurse Manager II HPSC
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Randal Parlour	Research and Guideline Development Unit Co-ordinator (RGDU) HPSC
Claire Gilbourne	Research and Guideline Development Unit (RGDU) HPSC



HSE Public Health: Health Protection
FSS Sláinte Poiblí: Chosaint Sláinte

To Protect and Prevent
A chosaint agus a chosc