

# POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL

KEYSTONE COMMUNITY RESOURCES, INC.

KEYSTONE INDEPENDENT LIVING, INC.



**Policy Title:**  
Head lice

**Chapter:**

**Effective Date:**  
7/1/1992

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11/25/2008

**Policy Number:**

**Executive Director**

## SCOPE:

- Chapter 6400 – Community Homes For Individuals With Mental Retardation

## INTRODUCTION:

1. The following are common questions and answers regarding head lice. If you suspect you or an individual in your care is infected with head lice this should be reported immediately to the nurse-on-duty. If one person in a family, camp, school or other group setting has head lice, there is a strong possibility that the others will too. The nurse-on-duty will recommend treatment applied to all who have been infested. General recommended treatment for lice is a shampoo prescribed by a physician/ thorough coming with a fine tooth comb is often necessary as part of the complete treatment. It is generally recommended that all bedding and clothing objects which lice and their eggs are know to linger be laundered, adding a week solution of ¼ cup bleach per gallon of water, in addition to normal laundry detergent in the wash cycle. Lice treatment spray is available and should be used on upholstery and carpeting in the infected area. Combs and hairbrushes discarded and replaced with new ones.
2. Remember, head lice can happen to anyone. The most important fact to remember is that the problem should be treated quickly because delays will only help to spread the infestation throughout the home and community.
3. Head lice are insects. The head louse is one variety of a number of different lice. This type has chosen to make scalp, and the hair on it, their home. Head lice complete their life cycle in approximately one month and new generations multiply rapidly, over and over again.
4. Head lice are usually transmitted from one infested person to another by direct contact with the hair. Personal items like comb, brushes, towels and bedding are other frequent sources of contamination. Another common source is clothing, such as hats, ribbons, scarves, topcoats and sweaters, all of which provide excellent transportation from one individual to another.

5. Although the lice are difficult to see, they are easy to recognize, provided you are actually looking for them. One tell-tale sign is a persistent itch of the scalp, often accompanied by infected scratch marks or what appears to be a rash. Closer inspection, possibly aided by a hand lens, will reveal small, silvery eggs attached to individual hairs. When checking the scalp, pay particular attention to the back of the head; although they will occasionally migrate to the beard or eyebrows. In severe case of infestation occasionally swollen lymph glands are noted in the neck or underarms.
6. During all stages of their life cycle, lice need to feed frequently on human blood.
7. Lice and their nits can survive, for a time, off the human host. Thus, even though you may have been successful in eliminating your infestation, immediate re-infestation is possible or a fresh infestation of other people in the home may occur.

## **DISCUSSION:**