

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL

KEYSTONE COMMUNITY RESOURCES, INC.

KEYSTONE INDEPENDENT LIVING, INC.



Policy Title:
Scabies

Chapter:

Effective Date:
7/1/1992

Revision Date:
11/25/2008

Policy Number:

Executive Director

SCOPE:

- Chapter 6400 – Community Homes For Individuals With Mental Retardation

INTRODUCTION:

1. Scabies is a disease of the skin which can be spread very easily from person to person. If you suspect you or someone in your care has been infected with scabies you should immediately consult the nurse-on-duty or physician – on- call. It is caused by a mite (small insect-like creature) which burrows into the skin causing rash-like swellings. These swellings are especially noticeable between the fingers, on the front surfaces of wrists and elbows, at the belt line, and the thighs. In men it may also be seen on the external genitalia and in women, on the nipples, abdomen, and lower portion of the buttocks.
2. In addition to the rash-like swelling, itching is usually very intense, especially at night. Scratching the infected area can cause secondary infections. It is generally several days or even weeks though, from the time of infection until the itching becomes noticeable.
3. Scabies is commonly transferred from person to person through direct contact. It is also spread in a limited extent, from undergarments or soiled bedclothes freshly contaminated by infected persons. The disease can also be acquired during sexual contact.
4. Cases of scabies should be treated as quickly and comprehensively as possible in order to prevent further spread of the disease. Single infections are uncommon; therefore it is important to investigate entire families, companions, etc., when a case is found. Underwear, sheets and blankets should be laundered thoroughly in households where cases are found. Remember, although scabies is not considered to be a severe disease, it is highly contagious and should be treated at once by a physician. Treatment is a hair and body lotion prescribed by a physician.

DISCUSSION:

