



SCABIES

Information Sheet for Patients and Visitors

What is scabies?

Scabies is an infestation of microscopic mites that burrow into the skin.

Common symptoms of scabies are:

- extreme itching
- a pimple-like skin rash
- sometimes tiny burrows can be seen on the skin surface
- Affected areas are usually between the fingers, wrists, elbows, armpits, buttocks, and waist
- Itching typically begins 2 to 6 weeks after the first contact and if a person has had scabies before the symptoms can occur 1 to 4 days after contact

Affected areas are usually between the skin area of the fingers, wrists, elbows, armpits, buttocks, and waist.

Itching typically begins 2 to 6 weeks after the first contact for new cases. If a person has had scabies before, the symptoms can occur 1 to 4 days after contact.

How is scabies spread?

Scabies is usually spread by direct, prolonged, skin-to-skin contact with someone who has scabies (e.g., sleeping in the same bed, sexual contact, holding hands). Scabies can also be spread by sharing clothing, bedding or other personal items with someone who has the infection. The mite cannot jump from person to person.

What special precautions are needed for scabies?

- You may be in a room by yourself or with someone that also has scabies
- A long-sleeved gown and gloves will be worn by everyone who cares for you and they must remove before exiting the room and then clean their hands
- A sign will be placed on your door to remind others who enter your room about the special precautions
- The room and the equipment used in the room will be cleaned and disinfected regularly
- Everyone who leaves your room must clean their hands well. It is important that visitors not assist other patients as this may transmit scabies to them
- You must clean your hands before you leave your room
- Once you have completed the necessary treatment these precautions will be removed