

JAM SESSION 8: HEAD LICE IN THE HOSPITAL: WHAT STAFF NEED TO KNOW



PURPOSE

To outline standardized infection prevention practices for patients admitted with head lice, reducing transmission risk to staff, visitors, and other patients.

UNDERSTANDING HEAD LICE

- Head lice are tiny insects that live on the scalp and hair.
- They spread mainly through **direct head-to-head contact**, and can also be transmitted via shared personal items (e.g., hats, brushes, bedding).
- Head lice crawl—they do not fly or jump, and they do not survive long off the scalp.

PRECAUTIONS FOR INPATIENTS

CONTACT PRECAUTIONS

Place patients with suspected or confirmed head lice on Contact Precautions:

- Gown and gloves for all direct care
 - Hand hygiene before/after patient contact and after glove removal
 - Use dedicated patient-care equipment when possible
- X** No airborne or droplet precautions are required—lice do not spread through

SCAN TO WATCH TRAINING VIDEO



https://drive.google.com/file/d/1XSpwlut8wWnl_I0ty3bH1VXI9R1WP2jr/view?usp=sharing