

Bed Bugs on Patients in Dental Clinics

I. Purpose:

We must prevent the transmission of bed bugs if they appear in our clinics. We must educate our students, staff, and faculty on how to respond if bed bugs are seen in our clinics. We must provide patients with support and guidance.

II. Policy:

Persons who arrive at the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry suspected to have bed bugs on their clothing, body, or other belongings will be managed so as to minimize exposure of providers, staff, and other patients and to prevent infestations of our clinics.

III. Procedures:

1: *Manage the Patient*

- Move the patient to a closeable room (exam room if available, designated room on floors with open clinics), and put the lobby chair used by the patient in this room.
- Ask the patient if they are aware of a bed bug problem at their residence. If they are not, provide them with information (see forms and appendices for further info).
- Ask the patient if you can inspect their belongings. Place personal belongings that may contain bugs (purses, backpacks, outer garments) in a clear plastic bag and secure with a gooseneck knot.
- Save a bug in a specimen container for identification if possible.
- Tell the patient to leave the clinic and not to reschedule appointments until their bed bug problem has been resolved.
- Document the incident in the patient's chart and put a sticky note in axiUm to inform other clinic personnel of the situation.

2: *Manage the Environment*

- Call the compliance officer (Catherine Harding 612-626-7820) or Dental Engineering (Greg Johnson 612-626-0633), and they will call Facilities Management who will call Plunkett's Pest Control to schedule a service call.
- Close off the room where the patient was treated and put a sign on the door that says "STOP! DO NOT ENTER THIS ROOM UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE! (See Forms section below.) (Because bed bugs do not fly and tend to hide in dark spaces, open cubicles can be treated as any other operatory space.)
- Place any disposables (gowns, gloves, bibs, etc) worn by patient or providers in a clear plastic bag secured with a gooseneck knot. Inspect the bag for bugs and dispose of it in the trash if there are no bugs detected.
- Place any non-disposable blankets, towels or drapes in a clear plastic bag secured with a gooseneck knot, inspect for bugs, and send it out to be laundered at high heat if no bugs are detected.
- Leave secured bags with bugs, any reception area chairs that the patient had used, and all instruments in the room until after the Plunkett's service call. After inspecting yourself (see procedure 3), leave the room.
- After Plunkett's Pest Control treats the room, remove the instruments and secured bags. Disinfect the room as usual and remove the sign from the door. (Plunkett's treatment for our clinic will most likely be chemical

treatment which is not the most effective treatment. Heat treatment is more effective but requires closing the clinic for four hours, and it will be difficult to maintain 140 degrees F in our clinic.)

- Plunkett's will return in about a week to do a post-treatment inspection. The Compliance Officer will be present for all treatments and inspections.
- Treatment will be repeated if any bugs are detected during the inspection. Remember, bed bugs tend to hide in dark places and they feed primarily at night on sleeping people so they most likely will not be visible during the daytime in a room where you are working. Evidence of bed bugs include rusty stains where they have been crushed, dark spots about this big • which are their excrement, eggs, or live bugs.

3: **Manage Students and Employees Who Came in Contact With the Patient**

- Inspect your person for bugs. Pay attention to pants cuffs, hoods, pockets, and the tops of your shoes. Bed bugs do not like heat and are unlikely to be in your hair or on your skin.
- If there is a bug on your person, remove it and crush it. Bed bugs do not carry disease.
- Request a clean set of scrubs, remove your old scrubs and put them in a clear plastic bag secured with a gooseneck knot. The garments will be sent out for laundering at high heat with other non-disposable materials from the operatory.
- The option of on-site showering is available to all personnel if they want to shower on site. You do not have to shower on site.
- Contact the Compliance Officer if you have any questions or concerns.

IV. Forms:

1: Printable Room Sign

2: Printable Patient Information

STOP!
DO NOT ENTER THIS
ROOM UNTIL
FURTHER NOTICE.

Day-to-Day Prevention

- Bed bugs are excellent hitchhikers, so be extra careful when traveling (see tips below).
- Change and wash bedding regularly.
- Do not bring second-hand furniture into your home unless you have thoroughly inspected and cleaned the items first.
- Reduce clutter.

Traveling Tips

- Inspect mattress and headboard with flashlight.
- Keep bags, luggage, and backpacks off the bed. Inspect and then use a luggage rack.
- Never place clothes, or jackets, on bed or couch. Do not store clothes in dresser.
- If you are concerned about exposure, after travel, seal all items in plastic bags until time for washing or treatment.
- Unpack clothes directly into washer / dryer.
- Inspect luggage closely with flashlight and magnifying glass for bed bugs upon returning home.

Bites and Disease

Bed bugs are not known to transmit disease. Bites are often painless and occur at night while you are sleeping. Some people suffer allergic reactions and develop painful swelling.

**Pesticide Safety First
Read the Label.**

How to Hire a Pest Control Operator

- Call several licensed and insured companies, compare services and get written estimates.
- Insist on and check references.
- Look for companies that:
 - offer an IPM solution
 - offer both chemical and non-chemical treatment options
 - give a pre-treatment check-list
 - perform pre-treatment inspection
 - recommend both interceptors and encasements
 - offer two or more service visits and follow-up

Before Using Pesticides

- Some pesticides are considered minimum risk. EPA does not register and check for effectiveness of these products. These products do not have EPA registration numbers on the label.
- Never use outdoor pesticides indoors.
- Some pesticides, and total release foggers are highly flammable. Improper use may cause a fire.
- Never overuse pesticides. More is not better!
- Read, understand, and follow the label-use directions.

**Bed Bug
Prevention, Detection
and Control**

Bed bugs are parasites that seek out sleeping people or animals for a blood meal. After feeding, they hide. It is challenging, but not impossible, to prevent, detect and control bed bugs due to their small size and ability to squeeze into cracks and crevices, where they are often unnoticed.

Pesticides alone generally will not eliminate bed bugs. Effective bed bug control requires Integrated Pest Management (IPM). IPM is an environmentally sensitive approach to pest management that relies on knowledge of the pest, plus common sense practices, such as inspection, monitoring, reducing clutter, the use of physical barriers, and the judicious use of pesticides.

**Be Alert, Be Aware,
Bed Bugs Could be Anywhere!**

The important thing is to act fast — before they have time to multiply.

For more information on bed bugs and IPM go to:
www.epa.gov/bedbugs
Pesticide Poisoning: Call 1-800-222-1222

EPA United States
Environmental Protection
Agency
735F12013

V. Appendices:

<https://www.epa.gov/bedbugs>

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/10.1086/668029.pdf?refreqid=excelsior%3Aa645fe74ec92c6327ee4b4510045ff3e>

<https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/bedbugs/>

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/dtopics/pests/bedbugs.html>

Policy Owner:	
Approved by:	
Approval Date:	
Effective Date:	
Revision Date:	