

BED BUG PREVENTION AND CONTROL FOR HEALTH CARE SETTINGS

HOSPITALS
CLINICS
HOSPICE
SHORT-TERM OVERNIGHT FACILITIES



(Long-Term Care Facility Guidance is same as Multi=Unit Guidance)

Due to the growing incident rates of bed bugs in our community, it is prudent to enhance existing preventive measures in health care settings. Health care facilities that serve a continually changing roster of patients will need to focus on prevention.

Training Recommendations for Staff

Provide training to all staff members on bed bug identification, surveillance, control, and prevention. Training should be provided at the commencement of employment and annually thereafter. Elements of a training curriculum should include:

- Identification of bed bugs and explanation of their life cycle.
- Review of inspection procedures
- Review of housekeeping and maintenance procedures including vacuuming and appropriate disposal of refuse

- Review of reporting and procedures subsequent to detection of bed bugs or evidence of an infestation
- Review of prevention and control measures aimed to reduce bed bug populations and limiting their spread within the facility

Prevention

1. Integrate bed bug monitoring into regular cleaning routines; this will help identify problems before they spread throughout the facility
2. Weekly – Monitor for evidence when changing the sheets. Check the mattress cover and the edges of the mattress.
3. Monthly – If utilizing box springs, inspect for signs of bed bugs.
4. Quarterly – Conduct thorough inspections of potential harborage locations – behind pictures and headboards and in furniture, sofas, or chairs.

Patients should be instructed to:

- Only bring necessary items into the facility. Clothes, blankets, luggage, bags and other possessions that are not essential during a patient's stay should be left at home.
- Items brought into the facility should be placed in sealed plastic bags.

Note: Under no circumstances should a patient be refused medical treatment based on their exposure to bed bugs.

Facilities should adopt policies and protocols as to how to manage and communicate with patients or visitors that may be uncooperative with facility bed bug policies.

Detection

- If a bed bug is seen, capture and secure in a vial or specimen container (tape lids to container) for identification. You can add rubbing alcohol or hand sanitizer to the container which will kill the bug.
- Notify facility maintenance of the possible bed bug issue including contacting a laboratory for identification and/or a pest management company for identification and extermination.

- When possible, close the room off and leave room undisturbed for the pest management professional (leave linen and equipment).
 - Place two-sided tape in the room in the doorway.
 - If the pest management company verifies that live bed bugs are present, the room will be treated and remain closed until treatment by a pest management company.

Transfer Patient

Each patient and situation will have its own set of circumstances and should be handled on a case-by-case basis. A patient may need to be transferred to a different room and the following steps must be taken prior to said transfer:

- The patient must place all clothing items in a sealed clear plastic bag. The bag can be sent home with family to be washed and dried on the hottest temperatures for 20 minutes.
- The patient will be given a fresh gown.
- Purses/luggage/backpacks should be placed in a plastic bag and sealed. Family members will be provided the option of taking them home or leaving them in the room.
- Patient and family members and/or visitors that have been in the room will be informed and given bed bug instruction and educational resources.

Treatment and Control

The facility or their facility maintenance department should:

1. Never remove any items from bed bug infested rooms before inspection and treatment by a pest management professional. This will help to prevent relocating bed bugs to other areas within the premises.
2. Contact a licensed pest management professional to perform a detailed bed bug inspection.
3. Make available to the pest management professional all rooms adjacent to the infested room as well as storage rooms, vacuum cleaners, service carts, hallways, and laundry rooms for bed bug inspection and treatment where necessary.
4. The pest management professional will determine if a treatment is required.
5. Comply with the pest management professional's instructions on how to prepare the room for bed bug eradication. In some instances, facility staff may need to assist with moving beds and other heavy furnishings.

Management of furnishings and materials infested with bed bugs

1. Do not remove infested materials designated for disposal until after the room is inspected and/or treated by the pest management professional.
2. Remove clothing, linens, and materials designated for disposal from a bed bug infested room in sealed plastic bags to prevent relocating bed bugs to other areas within the premises.
3. Wash infested linens in hot water and dry for 20 minutes using the hottest setting of the dryer to kill bed bugs and bed bug eggs.
4. Dispose of all vacuumed refuse from an infested room in a plastic bag (including the vacuum cleaner bag).
5. Do not unnecessarily dispose of mattresses and furniture. Have a pest management professional service all furniture and mattresses prior to disposal. After treatment, any items marked for disposal should be wrapped in a protective cover such as a sheet or plastic before removal from the infested room to the disposal site and clearly mark infested items as "bed bug infested" prior to disposal, recycling or placing items curbside.