ECTOPARASITE CONTROL

PURPOSE: To define guidelines for the delousing of offenders of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ).

POLICY: TDCJ delouses offenders only when it is determined to be medically indicated by a licensed physician or physician extender within TDCJ.

PROCEDURE: Offenders are assessed for lice infestation upon arrival at one of the receiving facilities of TDCJ and prior to undergoing delousing treatment as specified by a physician or physician extender. Conditions that may affect choice of treatment (such as pregnancy, seizure disorder, open sores, or rashes) are considered before using an approved medically safe method.

II. Delousing at the facility level may be accomplished on a situational basis only when ordered specifically by a physician or physician extender. Linen and clothing must be isolated until machine washed and dried. The offender's mattress and housing area will be cleaned with a Double-D, or an equivalent disinfectant. The offender's cell/dorm partner(s) should be evaluated and treated if indicated.

III. The preferred agent for treatment of lice is permethrin, 5% cream for scabies or 1% lotion for pubic or head lice. The cream should be applied once, and be rinsed off within 8-14 hours (usually overnight). May be repeated in 14 days if living mites are observed after initial application. One application is generally curative. The lotion should be applied after shampooing and left in place about 10 minutes before rinsing out. Application may be repeated in seven days to destroy any nits that survive, but prolonged and multiple repetitions of applications should be avoided.

Reference: www.cdc.gov/lice
http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/pubic/treatment.html
http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/scabies/treatment.html