

# The MetroHealth System

## Hospital Protocols: Bed Bugs



# Agenda

- Patient Story
- Review policy
- Definitions
- Notification Procedures
- Inspection Procedures
- Extermination Procedures
- Patient Care Procedures
- Conclusion

# Experience

- Patient presented with a itchy rash for 3 weeks with accompanying chills, fatigue and headache for the past week. Patient was noted to have multiple red marks scattered on arms, forearms, thighs and torso. Patients son did not have a rash. Patient then had a full lab workup which was unremarkable and biopsy of 2 lesions was consistent with hypersensitivity reaction. Patient then had the exterminator return to the residence, and this time found numerous bed bugs in couch. Patient sleeps almost exclusively on the couch. Patient was given fluocinonide ointment and hydroxyzine to control symptoms and then got rid of couch and most of belongings. Patient has moved to a new apartment and as of 3 weeks ago, itching and rash had resolved entirely.

# MetroHealth Policy

The MetroHealth System (MHS) is committed to immediately respond to the threat or presence of bed bugs.

# Purpose of Policy

To provide employees and patients with information to assist in the identification of bed bugs, procedures for the appropriate action to protect patients, staff and the environment when bed bug infestation has occurred, and procedures for the containment and extermination of bed bugs.



# Definitions:

The common bed bug (*Cimex lectularius*) is an insect that feeds on human blood.

- They are reddish-brown, wingless insects about the size of an apple seed.
- Newly hatched bugs are white or yellowish and resemble the adults, but are smaller.
- Bed bugs are generally not carried on a person and they do not transmit disease.
- Their bites are painless and typically happen at night while you sleep.

# Notification/Inspection/Extermination

1. Contact the Environmental Services Department (EVS) when evidence of bed bugs has been identified. After hours, page the EVS supervisor on call.
2. The EVS supervisor will:
  - Contact Facilities Management Department to inspect area of cracks or breaches in the floor and walls, including peeling wall paper and paint.
  - Keep all equipment contained in room.
  - Contact the extermination contractor.

# Notification/Inspection/Extermination

1. The extermination contractor will inspect and treat the room within 24 hours of notice.
2. EVS supervisor will re-inspect and clean area after extermination is complete.
3. Room maybe open for use 6 hours after extermination and cleaning is complete.



# Notification/Inspection/Extermination

EVS will remove all labeled biohazard trash from the clinical areas and immediately transport to biohazard trash holding area.

# Patient Care Procedures

- Staff should wear Tyvek ® Protective Suit “Bunny suit” and head covering when providing patient care.
- Assist patient to remove clothing immediately, double bag and tie securely.
- All personal patient clothing should be sealed inside a plastic bag and when possible given to a family member or significant other. Instruct to home launder with hot water and detergent and heat dry. If family not available, leave personal clothing bagged in room.
- All other personal patient belongings, including electronic equipment, should also be sealed inside a plastic bag when possible given to a family member or significant other.
- All hospital linen should be sealed in a plastic bag, labeled with a biohazard sticker and sent to the Textile Care Services.

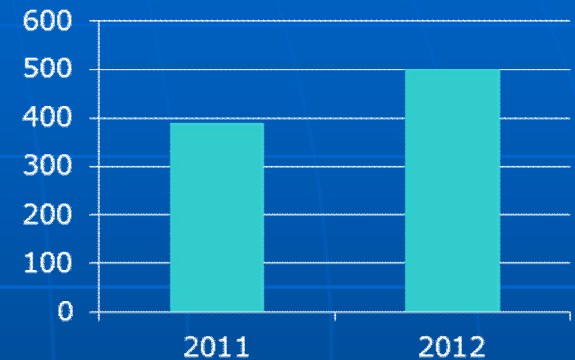
# Patient Care Procedures

- Assist patient to shower if possible.
- Inspect skin for identification of additional bugs and skin integrity due to bites.
- Transfer the patient to another room and initiate Contact Precautions for a minimum of 24 hours or until there is no further observation of the presence of bed bugs.
- Close off patient's original room. Room may be reopened for use after 6 hours of extermination and cleaning completed.
- Protective equipment should be removed immediately upon leaving patient room, placed in bag, labeled biohazard, sealed and sent to Textile Care Services.

# Data and Conclusion

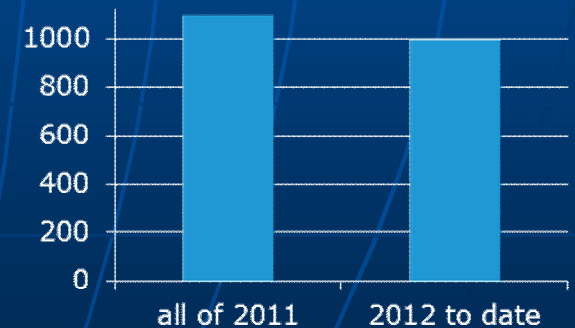
The Cleveland Health Department has received about 500 complaints of bedbugs this year, compared with 390 at this time last year. 22% increase.

**CDH Bed Bug Calls**



The Cuyahoga County Board of Health has received more than 1000 calls for community assistance related to bed bugs, compared with 1100 for all of last year

**CCBH Bed Bug Calls**



Source the Plain Dealer dated 10/25/12.

# Questions

