



ADULT MEDICATION GUIDELINE

SCABICIDES & PEDICULICIDES (Topical)

Includes Permethrin and Dimeticone

Scope (Staff): All WNHS Staff

Scope (Area): Obstetrics and Gynaecology

This document should be read in conjunction with the [Disclaimer](#).

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Medication Class

Scabicides and pediculicides

Presentation

Permethrin:

Cream: 5%

NB: Permethrin 1% products were discontinued as of February 2019

Dimeticone:

Gel Spray: 4%

Storage

Store at room temperature, below 25°C

Dose

Scabies

Permethrin 5% Cream:

Apply cream to all body surfaces as per instructions below.

Treatment must be repeated in 7 days.

See also [Scabies, Head Lice and Pubic Lice](#) for further information.

Head Lice

Dimeticone 4% Gel Spray:

Apply product to hair as per instructions below.

Treatment must be repeated in 7 days.

Use a fine-tooth comb to remove eggs and dead lice each day.

See also [Treating Head Lice](#) from the Department of Health, Healthy WA for Manual removal method using hair conditioner and head lice comb.

Pubic Lice

Permethrin 5% Cream:

Apply product to affected areas as per instructions below.

Treatment must be repeated in 7 days.

Sexual partner should also be treated.

Administration

Scabies (Permethrin 5% Cream):

Use the contents of the whole tube. Apply to clean, cool, dry skin, from the chin down. Ensure cream is applied between fingers and toes, under nails, in skin folds, to belly button, between buttocks and to groin area. If hands/other body parts are washed during treatment period, reapply cream to washed areas.

Avoid contact with the head, face and with the eyes and mucous membranes.

After 8-14 hours, remove Permethrin by showering with warm soapy water.

Head Lice (Dimeticone 4% Gel Spray):

Apply to dry hair, ensuring it is completely covered from scalp to tip. Allow hair to dry naturally. Wash out with shampoo after 15 minutes.

Pubic Lice (Permethrin 5% Cream):

Apply product to areas of hair where there are live lice or eggs. Wash off with warm, soapy water after 24 hours.

Removal of eggs or shaving pubic hair is not required.

Pregnancy

	Permethrin	Dimeticone
1st Trimester:	Considered safe to use	Considered safe to use
2nd Trimester:	Safe to use	
3rd Trimester:	Safe to use	

Breastfeeding

Both considered safe to use. The nipple and surrounding areas should be cleaned before feeding and the product reapplied after feeding.

Comments

Although a single treatment may be effective, two treatments 1 week apart are usually required to treat scabies and pubic lice.

Wash hands immediately after using medication.

Scabies itch may persist for 2–4 weeks after completing treatment:

- warn patients not to mistake this for ongoing infestation, and that itch may increase in intensity initially.
- manage with moisturisers, topical corticosteroids or an antihistamine.

Neurotoxic insecticides (malathion, pyrethrins with piperonyl butoxide) products were discontinued in 2024.

Related Policies, Procedures & Guidelines

HDWA Mandatory Policies:

Western Australian Department of Health Fact Sheet: [Treating head lice](#)

Western Australian Department of Health Fact Sheet: [Scabies](#)

WNHS Clinical Practice Guidelines:

[Transmission Based Precautions](#)

[Micro Alerts and Multi-Resistant Organisms](#)

[Healthcare worker Health and Immunisation Policy](#)

KEMH Clinical Guideline: Infection Prevention and Management: [Scabies, Head Lice and Pubic Lice](#)

WNHS Pharmaceutical and Medicines Management Guidelines:

[Ivermectin](#)

References









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