



## Pay particular attention to the following areas when applying lotion or cream

- Behind both ears
- Both armpits
- Underneath breasts
- Naval
- Groin & genital area between the legs
- Between fingers & under finger nails
- Between all toes and under nails
- Back of knees
- Soles of feet

### What about mites in clothing and bedding?

**Classical Scabies** – Mites die quickly if they fall off the body and do not spread on clothes, towels or bedding. Normal washing of clothes and bedding is recommended.

**Crusted Scabies** – There are so many mites, which may fall off as “crusts” (like flakes of skin). That all clothing and bedding should be washed in a hot wash and floors and chairs hoovered

### How can I contact a member of the Infection Prevention & Control Team?

Tell the Clinical Nurse Manager, doctor or nurse looking after you if you would like to speak to a member of the Infection Prevention and Control Team and they will contact us.

We have made every possible effort to make sure that all the information provided in this leaflet is true, accurate, complete and up to date at the time of publication



#### Additional information can be found at:

<http://intranet.tuh.ie/departments/IPC/Pages/home.aspx>

#### References:

<https://www.hpsc.ie/az/other/scabies/factsheets/File,13212,en.pdf>

<https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/scabies/>



Tallaght  
University  
Hospital

Ospidéal  
Ollscoile  
Thamhlachta

An Academic Partner of Trinity College Dublin

PATIENT  
INFORMATION  
LEAFLET

# Scabies





## What is Scabies?

Scabies is a common and very itchy skin condition. It is caused by human scabies mites. It can affect people of any age, but is most common in the young and the elderly.

## What causes Scabies?

The mites that cause Scabies are tiny parasites, smaller than a pinhead. They are usually picked up by prolonged direct skin-to-skin contact with someone who already has scabies, It can also spread from objects such as clothing or bedding. Scabies is not spread by household pets.

## Is Scabies hereditary?

No, but it is common for several members of a family to have it at the same time.

## What are the symptoms of scabies?

Itching is the main symptom of Scabies, particularly at night usually starting about a month after the mites were picked up. The itching affects the body and limbs but usually spares the head and the neck, except in infants.

## What does scabies look like?

The rash of Scabies is a mixture of scratch marks and red scaly areas, later it can become infected and develop small pus spots. The itchy rash covers much of the skin, but the mites themselves show up mainly where they burrow along, just under the skin surface. They deposit their eggs, for example on the sides of the fingers and hands, and around the wrists, ankles and feet.

## How is the diagnosis of scabies made?

The best way of making the diagnosis of scabies is for a doctor to pick out a mite from its burrow with a needle and to identify it under a microscope.

Your doctor will usually be able to diagnose scabies on the basis of the story and the type of rash.

If a patient has Scabies we may share that information with other hospitals. The Patient should also inform their carers of the result on admission to another hospital.

## Can Scabies be cured?

If it is not treated Scabies lasts for months or even years, but with the right treatment, it clears up quickly and completely.

Remember that, even after the mites have been killed, the itching may go on for a few weeks after the treatment has been completed.

## How should scabies be treated?

The treatment of Scabies falls into two, equally important halves:

- Getting rid of your own scabies
- Making sure that you and other contacts don't catch it again. This means that all family members and sexual contacts must be treated. Whether they say they are itchy or not.

Several preparations are effective in the treatment of Scabies. Two applications are required one week apart.

A close-up photograph of human skin showing a scabies rash. The skin is covered with numerous small, red, raised bumps and some larger, more inflamed areas. The texture of the skin is visible, and the overall appearance is itchy and irritated.

With the right treatment, Scabies clears up quickly and completely