**Purpose:**

To provide comprehensive care and infection control measures for patients with lice at Children's Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA). The guidelines aim to prevent the spread of lice through direct and indirect contact, ensuring a safe environment for all patients and staff.

**Procedures:**

1. **IPC Notification:**
   * Inform Infection Prevention & Control at extension 15510 (8:30am-4:00pm) or email infectionpreventioncontrol@chla.usc.edu.
2. **Isolation Precautions:**
   * Place patient in a private room on CONTACT Precautions. In addition to CONTACT PPE (gown and gloves), wear a bouffant.
3. **Treatment Order:**
   * Obtain order to treat the patient. Contact unit pharmacy representative to request lice comb to visualize and remove nits.
     + **Nursing staff:** Comb patient's hair with nit comb once a day for 7-10 days. Combs must be cleaned after each use using Sani Wipes.
     + **Visible nits alone do not require retreatment.** DO NOT re-apply if only nits are present. Remove the nits with the nit comb.
     + Two (2) treatments are recommended 7 days apart to prevent lice emerging from eggs.
     + Contact Infectious Diseases if lice remain present after 2nd treatment.
4. **PPE Doffing:**
   * Before leaving the patient’s room, remove PPE and perform hand hygiene consistent with WHO 5 Moments.
5. **Patient/Family Education:**
   * Educate family and visitors on how to examine themselves for lice and to seek medical attention for treatment if they suspect lice.
6. **Linen Change:**
   * Nursing staff to change bed linen daily and send to hospital laundry.
7. **Environmental Cleaning – EVS Responsibilities:**
   * Disinfect all environmental surfaces daily with hospital-approved disinfectant.
   * Curtains, if present, are to be changed or disinfected when the patient is discharged or transferred. (Refer to IC policy 716 and attachments.)
8. **Patient/Family Personal Belongings:**
   * All patient’s personal belongings should be placed (clothing, hair brushes/combs, and stuffed toys) in a plastic bag, secure tightly and send home.
9. **Patient Transport/Transfer:**
   * Notify receiving department, indicating patient’s isolation status before patient is transferred or transported to another area.
10. **Discontinuation of Isolation:**
    * Continue Contact Precautions until patient has been treated with effective therapy and hair has been thoroughly examined for evidence of adult lice and nits with a nit comb, and all nits removed.