 **Head lice Standing Order**

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| Issue date: |  | Review date: |  |

This standing order is not valid after the review date. The review date is one year after the date the order was signed by the issuer.

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| **Standing Order Name** | Head lice |
| **Rationale** | To treat head lice in an appropriate and time efficient manner. |
| **Scope (condition and patient group)** | Adults and children who have been diagnosed as having head lice. |
| **Red Flags** | N/A |
| **Assessment** | 1. Accurate diagnosis can only be made if live lice are found.   * This can be difficult as they move quickly through the hair away from disturbances. * Eggs alone are not a sign of active infestation. * It is difficult to determine if eggs are alive or dead, although eggs found greater than 1cm from the scalp are either dead or empty cases.   2. Detection combing is the most effective way of finding head lice. Although time consuming to do properly (30 to 90 minutes), it is also a good way of treating head lice without using chemicals.   * Completely cover dry hair from root to tip with a layer of conditioner (this stuns lice for 20 minutes). * Use an ordinary comb to detangle the hair and ensure the conditioner covers all parts of the hair. * Comb thoroughly with a fine tooth lice comb. * Wipe the conditioner off the comb onto a paper tissue after each stroke, checking for lice and eggs. * Repeat combing for every part of the head. * Examine the comb for lice and eggs. * If you find head lice, continue combing the whole head until all of the conditioner is gone and no more head lice appear in the comb. * Repeat the conditioner and combing at least every two or three days until no head lice are found for ten days. This may take three to four weeks. |
| **Indication** | **Treatment of head lice** |
| **Medicine** | Malathion + permethrin + piperonyl butoxide (**Para Plus**) spray |
| **Dosage instructions** | Apply to dry scalp hair in an amount sufficient to thoroughly wet the area.  First apply behind ears and to back of neck.  After 10 minutes, add warm water to form a good lather, wash, and thoroughly rinse with water until all lather is gone.  Dry the hair with a clean towel and comb with a fine tooth comb to remove any remaining nits. |
| **Route of administration** | Topical |
| **Quantity to be given** | 1 x original pack |
| **Contraindications** | Hypersensitivity to any of the active ingredients or excipients |
| **Precautions** | * Shake container before using * Do not apply to eyebrows or eyelashes and avoid contact with eyes |
| **Additional information** | Advise to continue detection combing hair as above.  One treatment may be successful, but treatment should be repeated after 7–10 days to kill any newly hatched lice. Do not use more than twice in 24 hours.  Advise parents of the following   * Inform the school, kindergarten, preschool, kohanga reo, friends and family about any outbreak. * Check the whole family's hair once a week (daily when there is an outbreak in the community). * Tying back long hair may help minimise contact with other children's hair and possible reinfestation. * Avoid sharing of hats, hair brushes or combs. |
| **Follow-up** | If live lice are found after the product has been used correctly then a product from a different active group should be used. |
| **Countersigning and auditing** | Countersigning is not required. Audited monthly.  **OR**  Countersigning is required within ***XX*** days |
| **Competency/training requirements** | All nurses working under this standing order must be signed off as competent to do so by the issuer and have had specific training in this standing order. |
| **Supporting documentation** | Healthpathways at [www.healthpathways.org.nz](http://www.healthpathways.org.nz)  Best Practice Journal at [www.bpac.org.nz](http://www.bpac.org.nz)  New Zealand Formulary at [www.nzf.org.nz](http://www.nzf.org.nz)  Individual medicine data sheets at [www.medsafe.govt.nz](http://www.medsafe.govt.nz)  Standing Order Guidelines, Ministry of Health, 2012  Medicines (Standing Order) Regulations 2012 (Standing Order Regulations) |
| **Definition of terms used in standing order** | None |

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| **Medical Centre or Clinic:** |  |

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| **Signed by issuers** |

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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| **Nurses operating under this standing order** |

Only Registered nurses working within the above medical centre or clinic are authorised to administer medication under this standing order.

We the undersigned agree that we have read, understood and will comply with this standing order and all associated documents.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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