

(PEDICULOSIS CAPITIS / HEAD LICE) NURSING CARE PLAN

Medical Diagnosis: Pediculosis Capitis / Head Lice

Subjective Data:	Nursing Intervention (ADPIE)	Rationale
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extreme itching on the scalp • Irritability • Difficulty sleeping 	Assess the scalp for nits or active lice; common behind the ears, at the base of the neck and on the crown of the head	Nits will be small and firmly attached to the hair shaft. Shells of nits will still be present after they hatch, but will appear more yellow. Adult lice may be more difficult to see as they are darker and crawl quickly.
	Use PPE for examining patient	Lice are easily transmitted in clothing and on skin; use gloves to examine patient and change gloves between patients to prevent further transmission
	Apply pediculicide shampoo to patient's scalp and hair	Over the counter and prescription strength shampoos are available. Hair should not be washed again for 1 -2 days following treatment.
Objective Data: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small red bumps or sores on the scalp, neck or shoulders • Swollen lymph nodes behind the ears • Red, irritated eyes (if lice present in eyelashes) • Small bugs noted on scalp or found on pillow or sheets 	Comb hair with nit comb	Required to remove lice and nits from the hair and prevent reinfestation