

## **Treatment of Scabies: Patient Instructions**

- The scabicide has to be applied before bed to the whole body from the chin to soles, as well as the scalp and face, for adults and children.
- Repeat treatment one week later.
- Each treatment with scabicide should be followed the next morning by laundering or dry cleaning of sheets and pillow cases and any clothes worn against the skin over the last week.
  - Shoes should be placed in plastic bags for 7 days before being worn again
  - Clean mattresses, chairs and floors
  - Clean carpet and furnishings with a vacuum cleaner.
- To reduce the risk of the treatment failing:
  - Ensure the scabicide is applied to the whole body, face and scalp
  - Leave it on for the recommended time and reapply it after washing.
  - Apply the scabicide under fingernails using a soft brush.
  - Ensure all close contacts are treated whether or not they are itchy.
- Most people's itch improves within a few days of treatment but it may take 4-6 weeks for the itch and rash of scabies to clear completely because of dead mites at the skin surface, which will be slowly cast off.
- Re-evaluate patients after 2 weeks for evidence of new lesions
- Eruption should resolve mostly by 4 weeks.