

Sexually Transmitted Diseases/Infections

Pediculosis Pubis

Pediculosis pubis is an infestation caused by the crab louse, *Phthirus pubis*. This condition is most commonly observed in adolescents and is primarily transmitted through sexual contact. However, non-sexual transmission can also occur via contact with infested items such as bedding, towels, or toilet seats.

Patients typically present with pruritus in the pubic area or report noticing lice or nits attached to the pubic hair. Individuals diagnosed with pediculosis pubis should also be evaluated for other sexually transmitted infections (STIs), given the shared mode of transmission.

Sexual partners within the previous 30 days should be treated simultaneously to prevent reinfestation. A follow-up evaluation is recommended approximately one week after treatment, particularly if symptoms persist. Re-treatment may be necessary if live lice or viable nits are identified at the base of the hair shafts. In cases where patients do not respond to initial therapy, an alternative treatment regimen should be considered.

Pediculosis pubis is **not a reportable condition** in the state of North Carolina.

For more information:

- CDC STD Treatment Manual 2021: [Ectoparasitic Infections - STI Treatment Guidelines](#)
- Medline Plus: Pubic lice, www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/000841.htm