

## Fact Sheet

### Pubic Lice

[womensnewbornhealth.com.au](http://womensnewbornhealth.com.au)

#### What are pubic lice?

Pubic lice are also called crabs. They are tiny insects which bite the skin and can cause an infection in the genital areas as well as in other parts of the body. They live in pubic and body hair.

#### How will you know if you have pubic lice?

If you have pubic lice you may notice:

- itching in the genital area, which may be worse at night
- redness and irritation
- tiny dark specks on your pubic hair
- the lice moving

#### How can you be checked for pubic lice?

You can be checked at any Sexual Health Clinic or by your local doctor.

Pubic lice are caught by having close body contact with a person who has pubic lice. This may include sex.

Because pubic lice can survive for some time away from the body, it is also possible to catch them by sharing towels, clothes or someone's bed.

#### What is the treatment for pubic lice?

Pubic lice are treated by applying a lotion to your body from neck to ankles. The lotion is left on overnight, and then washed off in the morning. This treatment may need to be repeated in 7 days.

Clothing, bed linen and towels should be washed in hot water. Bed linen that cannot be washed may be ironed.

#### What if pubic lice are not treated?

Pubic lice may stop being itchy, but they don't go away.

The infection caused by pubic lice may also get worse. You always need treatment.

#### What about partners?

Anyone who has had close body contact with a person who has pubic lice should also be treated at the same time.

**Telling a partner is not always easy. Sexual health counsellors can advise you on the best way to do this.**

#### Western Sydney Sexual Health Centre

Jeffery House

162 Marsden Street Parramatta

02 9843 3124

Mon, Tues & Fri 0900 am - 0400 pm

Weds 1000 am - 0400 pm

Thurs 0400 pm - 0700 pm (appointment only)

#### Kelly Close Services

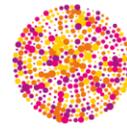
Kelly Close Mt Druitt - 02 9881 1206

Mon 0900 am - 0400 pm

Weds & Fri 0900 am - 0100 pm

**If you have any questions or worries please phone the clinic and ask to speak to a nurse or a counsellor.**





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[WSLHD-Get\\_Involved@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:WSLHD-Get_Involved@health.nsw.gov.au)

