



Bed bugs on the go: Keep bed bugs at bay while providing Medicaid transportation



Many people in Wake County and across the state are battling bed bugs. Providers of Medicaid transportation should expect that some of their riders will have bed bugs at home. Usually this will not be obvious because bed bugs hide away from people after feeding on them. However, bed bugs may be hiding in their purses, bags, backpacks, strollers, baby seats, medical equipment and other items people take with them.

Make a Plan!

- ◆ Decide, in advance, how drivers will respond to bed bugs in their vehicles. Write down the plan and train drivers on how to use it.
- ◆ Choose a pest control company with experience in bed bug control.
- ◆ Decide how and when vehicles will be inspected and monitored for bed bugs.
- ◆ Educate drivers, cleaning and maintenance staff to recognize signs of bed bugs, their habits and how to respond to complaints about bed bugs.

On-Going Prevention

- ◆ Keep vehicles free of clutter.
- ◆ Consider providing a clear plastic sealable bag or box with a lid for people to put their belongings in during transport (be sure to seal the bag or close the lid tight).
- ◆ Regularly “deep” clean vehicles. Vacuum often and occasionally steam clean carpets, seats and areas where people store things during transport.
- ◆ Consider regular inspections by pest control or a certified canine bed bug detection team.

When you know you are transporting someone with bed bugs at home....

- ◆ Use disposable plastic seat covers on seats (or a towel or sheet that can be dried on the highest heat setting after use).
- ◆ Before entering the vehicle, ask patient(s) to:
 - Shake out their clothing
 - Use an alcohol wipe or spray their shoes with alcohol (be careful—alcohol is flammable. It only kills bed bugs on contact)
 - Put their belongings in a sealable clear plastic bag or box with a lid.

If you transport someone who has bed bugs at home on a regular basis, you might ask them to put on bed bug free clothes as they are leaving home and keep a pair of shoes in a zip-lock bag that they only use when they leave their home. This will not only protect your vehicle, but also the places your patients are visiting.



**Human
Services**

For more information visit www.wakegov.com
(type “bed bugs” in the search box) or call 919-250-3891
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