

## APPENDIX L

### Sample Letter to Discharged Patients/Residents

Facility Letterhead

Date

Dear Patient/Resident:

During your recent hospitalization you may have been exposed to scabies. Although it is unlikely that the exposure will result in you becoming infected with scabies, we want to alert you to the possible exposure. We are working in collaboration with Los Angeles County Public Health and want to ensure that you are informed of the possible exposure and that the appropriate follow-up steps are taken, if needed.

Scabies is a contagious skin condition caused by a mite that requires skin-to-skin contact. Signs and symptoms include a rash and itching, especially at night. It can appear anywhere on the body but is usually on the hands, wrists, elbows, breasts, armpits, waistline, and groin. The rash can also include tiny blisters and scales. Scabies has a long incubation period (the time from possible exposure to the time symptoms develop), usually four to six weeks. Persons who have scabies are infectious to others, even before symptoms develop. Scabies is diagnosed by a physician, nurse practitioner or other clinician looking at the rash and/or taking a scraping from the skin. Usually, scabies is easily treated by a medicated cream or oral medication prescribed by your physician.

Public Health recommends that you check your skin daily and, if a rash and/or itching occurs, notify your personal physician as soon as possible. Or you may call me at \_\_\_\_\_ if you have any questions.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Name, Title