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Mastering Infection Control: How to Become No. 1

Presenters



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Infection Control and SNFs - The Healthcare Outlook

- COVID Infection Control is a BIG DEAL
- It's About to Get Harder
- Staff and Culture Implications
- Downside of an Outbreak
- Upside of a Superlative Program – Potentially Big?

Superlative Safety Practices

1. Test, Test, Test ...Staff and Patients (Frequent and Comprehensive)
2. Screen Healthcare Personnel Often (Before/During/After Shifts)
3. Communicate with Everyone (Transparency = Trust)
4. Isolate CV – *and CV-Suspected* – Patients (ie, with Zip Walls)
5. PPE: Streamline Donning/Doffing (“Steripods”, “Sanipods”)
6. PPE: Ensure Reliable, Uninterrupted Sourcing

Superlative Safety Practices

7. Create a Culture of Safety (not “what we can do,” but “who we are”)
8. Carve Out COVID Clinical Teams (dedicated to CV patients)
9. Expand Telehealth and RPM
10. Reduce/Eliminate Staff Exposure in the Community (Services, Housing)
11. Master Transfer Protocols (transporting patients to/from hospital)
12. Anticipate a Resurgence (Crisis plan; ICU bed capacity; PPE stockpile)

Superlative Safety Practices

1. Testing (Frequent and Comprehensive)

Conduct frequent widespread testing within facilities.

- Test all residents
- Test all new admissions
- Test any residents thereafter that develop symptoms

Know ALL COVID-19 symptoms; especially those more prevalent in elderly: (myalgia, extreme fatigue, nausea, diarrhea, delirium)

Superlative Safety Practices

5. PPE Protocols - Donning and Doffing

Condition staff to highly structured PPE protocols.

Isolate donning and doffing within secure “Steripod” chambers.

- Staff enters via single entrance
- Removes street clothes and dons scrubs laundered onsite
- Post shift, staff undergoes UV sterilization
- Exit facility without passing through patient care areas

Superlative Safety Practices

7. Creating a Culture of Safety

- Prompt, clear, transparent communication from leadership to staff
- Be prepared to explore and answer tough questions
- Provide comprehensive education and training
- Reassure all of a safe, infection-free environment
- Demonstrate appreciation and gratitude to staff

Superlative Safety Practices

9. Expand Telehealth and RPM

Telehealth and remote patient monitoring (RPM)

- Offer tools for disease monitoring and patient-provider communications
- Monitors vitals and detects physiological changes
- Cuts down on staffing expenses
- Reduces the likelihood of infection
- Conserves costly PPE

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**For more information:
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