Covid-19 Preparedness and Management In Nursing Homes

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Staff Education On Covid-19

Staff Education:

  -Disease process (Signs and Symptoms)

  - Modes of transmission

  - Infection control practices

  - Weekly briefing on new CDC/Health department guidelines

Notification of Residents and Families:

- Disease outbreak

-Common symptoms and preventive measures implemented

Operation Management

Challenges

- First positive case was on 4/2/20

- Cases went to 140 within 10 days

- 55% of work force was out sick or too frightened to come to work

- 4 of 5 unit managers was out sick

- Only one MD and NP were present onsite

- Press coverage

Operation Management Cont...

Actions taken to navigate the obstacles

- Facility wide testing and extensive cohorting push

- Incentive pay to allow adequate staffing

- Outreach to providers, setting the expectations that they are onsite

- Outreach to dialysis partners to dialyze onsite

- Daily onsite screening with MD/NP/PA visits if clinically unstable

- Close lab monitoring to identify early signs of decompensation

- Transfer of unstable patients to the hospital

- Family concerns

Recovery Phase

-Utilization of CDC guidelines to identify resolved cases

Non-test-based strategy.

> At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and,

>At least 7 days have passed since symptoms first appeared

Recovery Phase

-128 cases resolved by 4/29/20 per CDC guideline

- Less than 10% mortality rate

-Continue to utilize EMS data and clinical assessment findings to identify new symptoms/resolved cases

-Utilize CDC guidelines to return sick employees who has recovered back to work (7days free of symptoms and 3 days free of fever without the use of antipyretics)

-Continue to maintain social distancing

-Continue use of PPEs to prevent re-infection

-Resumed clinical process

-Open for new admission on a clean unit

-Screen new residents for COVID prior to admission

-Quarantine new admissions to their rooms for 14 days

Health Agencies Reporting

-Provide updated infection line listing to city and state health departments

-Report daily staffing level, new infections, hospital transfers, deaths to the office of healthcare quality (OHCQ)

References

- Baltimore City Health department (2020). Covid-19 guidance for mass gathering. //health.baltimorecity.gov/sites/default/files/COVID-19_EventGuidance3b%20Updated.pdf

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- Center for Medicare and Medicare Services (CMS, 2020). Covid-19 Long-Term Care Guidance. Retrieved from: https://www.cms.gov/files/document/4220-covid-19-long-term-care-facility-guidance.pdf