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
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 were out sick
- Only one MD and NP were present onsite
- Press coverage
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 (7 days 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

