Section 4
Breaking the Chain of Infection in the Adult Care Home

Objectives

- Describe the cleaning and disinfection of surfaces, floors, high-touch areas, in resident living areas, to prevent infection in the adult care home.
- Describe Transmission-Based Precautions.
- Compare and contrast Contact Precautions, Droplet Precautions, and Airborne Precautions.

Objectives

- Explain the correct disposal of sharps.
- Define an outbreak and list steps needed to manage an outbreak in an adult care home.
- Describe two dangerous infections common in adult care homes - influenza and norovirus.
Recall

- Infection is a disease or condition of the body when harmful germs get into the body and grow in number
- Harmful germs are tiny living things that live almost everywhere – both inside and outside of our bodies that cause problems or disease
- Infection prevention is all of the things that people do to control and prevent the spread of infection
- Infection prevention extremely important in adult care homes
- Only way to stop spread of infection is to break the chain of infection

Care of the Adult Care Home Environment

A clean environment is very important in the prevention of infection

SPILLS on the floor... What do I do now?

- Put on gloves
- Absorb spill and clean area
- Discard waste in appropriate container
- Apply disinfectant to area
- Place a warning cone or sign in area
Spill?

Why are spills on the floor involving body fluids especially dangerous in an adult care home?

Sharps - items that have corners, edges, or projections that can cut or pierce the skin

Examples?

Sharps RULES

- Wear gloves and be careful
- Do not cut self or resident during shaving
- Do not jab self when using sharps
- NEVER, EVER re-cap a needle or other sharp object
- NEVER, EVER put anything sharp in a regular trashcan
Sharps Disposal

- ALWAYS put anything that has been used on a resident in a sharps container
- Description of the container?
- NEVER, EVER stick your hand or fingers in a sharps container
- NEVER, EVER over fill a sharps container

Medical Waste Disposal

Disposable syringes, needles, finger stick devices and other sharps, as well as blood of 20 cc’s or more shall be treated and disposed of as mandated by North Carolina Law

Do I Use This One?  Or That One?
Handling Linen That is Soiled

- Place in bag or container in accordance with facility's policies and procedures
- Wear gloves when changing, carrying, and discarding soiled linen
- Roll linen up during linen change so dirty side is inside
- Carry soiled linen away from clothes
- Do not shake linen

Recall

- CDC is the nation's health protection agency; an agency of the federal government that is in charge of the control and prevention of disease in our country
- Works to protect the public
- Developed a two-tiered way to prevent and control infections – Standard Precautions and Transmission-Based (Isolation) Precautions

Transmission-Based Precautions

- 2nd level to prevent and control infections
- Specific measures and tasks when caring for residents who are infected/may be infected with specific types of infections

3 Types
1. Contact Precautions
2. Droplet Precautions
3. Airborne Precautions
**Contact Precautions**
Purpose – prevent spread of harmful germs spread by direct contact
PPE = Standard Precautions + Gown + Gloves
Examples
• MRSA
• Norovirus

**Droplet Precautions**
Purpose – prevent spread of harmful germs that travel by
Spread when an infected resident coughs, sings, sneezes, or laughs
PPE?
Examples?

**Airborne Precautions**
Purpose – prevent spread of harmful germs that travel in air at a distance
Harmful germs can float around for a while and can be carried by moisture, air currents, and dust
PPE = Standard Precautions + N95 mask or greater (depending on disease)
Examples?
“OUTBREAK!!!!!!”

DEFINITION: More illness in more residents than what is expected or what is normal for the facility

- Respiratory illness
- Gastrointestinal illness
- Other illnesses

An outbreak could also be just one confirmed case of a serious infection, such as TB

Local health department is notified as soon as an outbreak is SUSPECTED

THE SOONER THE BETTER!!!

Influenza
Norovirus