

4+

Steps to CDI Prevention in Nursing Homes



1

Early Identification and Containment of CDI (c. difficile) in Nursing Homes



- Early identification of CDI can limit the spread
- CDI is a common cause of acute diarrhea
- CDI is spread through caregiver hands, shared equipment, and common surfaces
- Rapid containment thru implementation of contact precautions including gown, gloves, and dedicated equipment for symptomatic residents can reduce contamination
- Contact precautions include gown, gloves and dedicated equipment
- Extending or initiating unnecessary therapy for CDI colonization can prevent the re-establishment of normal bacteria

2

Appropriate Cleaning and Disinfection Practices



- C. diff spores surviving for a long time on objects and surfaces play a role in the spread
- Cleaning and disinfection is an essential strategy
- Spores can be found throughout a room, such as on lightswitches, doorknobs, and bedside tables
- Nursing homes should have educational programs, policies and procedures that outline cleaning practices and schedules
- Sodium hypochlorite bleach products are needed to disinfect surfaces
- Monitor adherence to policy and procedures, evaluate effectiveness, and communicate results

3

Hand Hygiene



- Hand hygiene is the most effective way to prevent the spread of bacteria that cause infections
- Improving healthcare personnel adherence to hand hygiene practices can reduce both infections and the spread of antibiotic-resistant bacteria
- CDI spores are not killed by alcohol based rubs or washing with soap and water
- Use of gloves is very important to prevent hand contamination
- Proper hand hygiene must be understood by all people working in a healthcare facility

4

Antibiotic Stewardship



- Limit the use of antibiotics by minimizing the frequency, duration, and number prescribed
- Stewardship can prevent the unintended consequences of antibiotic use such as replacement of normal bacteria with those that cause infections
- CDI risk increases when taking multiple antibiotics or long courses of antibiotics

The Benefits to Nursing Homes?

- Resident and family satisfaction will increase as they see your commitment to safe healthcare
- Realize reduction in cost of care and improve the quality of life for your residents and reducing hospital transfers