INFECTION PREVENTION IN MEMORY CARE

Changes created by implementing infection prevention strategies can be challenging for those with impaired memory. To reduce fear and anxiety in a population with impaired memory, approach care using structure and routine, and include visual cues.

TAKE **P-R-I-D-E** IN THE CARE YOU PROVIDE

P **Provide** opportunities for in-room activities (if in isolation) or in small groups that can accommodate spacing (if social distancing).

R **Remind** people in your care to perform hand hygiene routinely. Model expected behaviors. Provide visual prompts to foster routine hand hygiene, teeth brushing, etc. Validate appropriate behavior.

I **Investigate** changes in behavior that may indicate a change in health. Knowing the normal (baseline) condition will help in recognizing change.

D **Discuss** details (preferences related to food, drink, bathing schedules, etc.). Meeting people "where they are" related to their abilities and understanding their preferences can help increase confidence and establish routines.

E **Establish** routines to assist in recall related to activities of daily living. Get creative; use a calendar with visual cues associated with each day and time that an activity is to take place.

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INFECTION PREVENTION IN MEMORY CARE

WHEN ISOLATION IS NECESSARY FOR SAFETY

Use the Dementia Isolation Toolkit to guide you through the decision-making process and document details.

CONSIDER/DISCUSS

- Whether to relocate to an isolation unit or isolate in place
- A person's ability to understand and remain in a room and measures to assist with maintaining isolation:
  - 1:1 observation needed?
  - Location of isolation room-near nurses' station for observation?
  - Using visual cues to remind resident/patient to remain in room and remind others (who are not family or involved in care) not to enter room (i.e., secure door guard safety banner)
- Communication (why? where? duration?) to patient/resident, family and direct care providers
- Involvement of health department professionals
- Ensuring personal items (pictures, etc.) are moved before or with resident
- Personal Protective Equipment (type needed, where to locate, etc.)
- Cleaning of equipment, environment, etc., product to use and frequency of cleaning

Isolation is often anxiety producing. Frequent check-ins, addressing needs and offering in-room activities can reduce anxiety. Consider having multiple staff sign-up to check in for 3-5 minutes unrelated to medication administration or other I- activities. Brief check-ins have been shown to have a positive impact on both residents/patients and staff.

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