

PREVENTION OF INFECTIONS IN HOMES FOR THE ELDERLY -SEMINAR HELD BY THE HEALTHCARE STANDARDS DIRECTORATE IN AUGUST 2016

Effective prevention of infections in residential care homes for the elderly not only safeguards the health of residents and staff by minimising the harm caused by infections, but also reduces the chance of hospitalisation of the residents and thus helps save health resources. It is therefore incumbent on every staff member and resident to learn how to prevent infections in Homes for the Elderly. The Seminar organised by the Healthcare Standards Directorate was intended to provide staff members with practical information on the preventive measures of various infections that may be found everywhere but



especially in institutions like residential homes for the elderly. Every staff member has the responsibility to understand the consequences of poor hygiene and to take care of the elderly according to the principles laid down in infection control policies

The fact that nursing home residents are older in age creates the perfect situation for their immune system to be weakened by the presence of excessive germs, viruses, and bacteria. Lack of hygiene and sanitation can cause them to suffer preventable diseases that could be avoided by the nursing home that practices proper hygiene. In many cases, the reason why a nursing home might not be putting the appropriate attention to hygiene is because of a lack of staff or resources to keep up with this important daily task.

The physical environment of a nursing home facility may also present an area where hygiene is lacking. Bathrooms and shower areas that are not sanitized on a regular basis represent breeding grounds for germs to spread.

The kitchen area, where food is cooked and served to nursing home residents, is also a place where it is vital to have the utmost cleanliness possible. The kitchen staff needs to be properly dressed for the job and take all the necessary measures to handle food safely. Also, the dining area needs to be sanitized, including the tables, chairs, buffet tables, floors, and every other area that is

touched or handled by the residents.

Lack of basic maintenance and staff could be the cause of poor cleanliness in nursing facilities. When there are many urgent situations going on at once, a nurse might forget to wash her hands between treating different patients. This is how germs can easily spread throughout the facility, affecting everybody living there.

Nursing home facilities have the responsibility to train staff to take proper hygiene measures to ensure the health of the residents. Nursing homes with the right amount of trained staff are less likely to have issues with poor hygiene. Cleanliness is of vital importance in this type of facility and cannot be overlooked. Two presentations were presented to the participants who showed great interest in the subject being delivered. All participants were presented with a certificate of attendance.



