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FYI -- Updates

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QA Action Plan Minimizing Exposure to the Flu

CHC is recommending that you develop a QA Action Plan for minimizing exposure to the flu for your organization. The QA plan should make sense and include systems in which exposure to the flu will be minimized for both residents and staff in the absence of the availability of the flu vaccine. The plan should be reviewed and approved by your medical director. Some things that you may consider:

- Posting sign encouraging visitors to assist you in providing the safest environment for your residents and that if they do not feel well to consider rescheduling their visit.
- Limit the number of outside groups coming in to provide activities ;if you do not have active flu in the building, I would not stop outside groups, but would limit their direct contact with the residents [i.e. do not encourage residents to shake hands or hug small children, etc.]
- Educate residents and staff on handwashing. Increase handwashing activities fir residents in group activities and before meals.
- Make hand sanitizer easily available to staff and visitors
- Require staff that do not feel well or have “sniffles” to wear face mask while delivering care.
- Require that staff that has a fever not report for work or send them home if fever develops while at work.
- Expand your hydration program.
- Vaccinate residents with the pneumonia vaccine if they have not been vaccinated within past 5 years.
- Educate alert residents on flu prevention and what you are doing. Educate family and/or responsible party on your plan.

In addition, you may wish to develop an “at risk for flu” care plan that includes individualized plans to minimize exposure and how you will monitor for symptoms for early treatment.

2005 OIG Work Plan

The Office of the Inspector General has released it’s work plan for Medicare and Medicaid certified nursing facilities. A copy of the work plan may be found at

<http://www.oig.hhs.gov/publications/docs/workplan/2005/2005WPCMS.pdf>

The plan includes a focus on:

- Nurse Aide Registries
- Nursing Home Deficiency Trends
- Nursing Home Compliance With Minimum Data Set Reporting Requirements
- Nursing Home Resident Assessment and Care Planning
- Enforcement Actions Against Noncompliant Nursing Homes
- Nursing Home Informal Dispute Resolution
- Nursing Home Residents’ Rights
- Skilled Nursing Facilities’ Involvement in Consecutive Inpatient Stays
- Imaging and Laboratory Services in Nursing Homes
- Skilled Nursing Facility Rehabilitation and Infusion Therapy Services
- State Compliance With Complaint Investigation Guidelines
- Medicaid Payments to Public Nursing Homes

MDS Training

VHCA will sponsor a 2-day MDS workshop on December 1st and 2nd at the Koger Center South. This program is designed for both administrators and members of the interdisciplinary team. Contact VHCA at 804-355-1943 for registration information.



Facilitating Quality Health Systems Thru Care and Compliance