Register Now for the Quality Assurance, Performance Improvement and Resident Safety Training

Beginning October 2019, QMP’s new two-day training program will be at eight locations. It will provide nursing facility (NF) staff with the knowledge and skills to develop and evaluate different approaches to quality assurance, performance improvement, and resident safety.

Topics include:

- Introduction to quality assurance, performance improvement, and resident safety
- Regulations and standards related to quality management in long-term care
- Quality management tools
- Patient safety and infection control
- Quality in action
- Change and organizational culture
- Evidence-based practice to improve processes and practices
- Putting the pieces together: An integrated approach to the quality program

Participants will be able to start and build on quality processes in their NFs and teach the curriculum to other staff members.

Dates and Locations:
October 16-17, 2019 - Fort Worth
October 30-31, 2019 - Abilene
November 13-14, 2019 - Austin
December 4-5, 2019 - El Paso
December 18-19, 2019 - San Antonio
January 8-9, 2020 - Edinburg
February 5-6, 2020 - Corpus Christi
February 19-20, 2020 – Houston

Register now for this free, two-day training. Visit the [conference web page](#) for more information. Email questions to [QMP@hhsc.state.tx.us](mailto:QMP@hhsc.state.tx.us).
Implementation of PPE in Nursing Homes to Prevent the Spread of Novel or Targeted MDROs

The CDC has released interim guidance for NFs to address using personal protective equipment and room restriction to prevent spreading novel or targeted multi-drug resistant organisms. This new approach, called “Enhanced Barrier Precautions,” falls between Standard and Contact Precautions and requires the use of gloves and gowns for certain residents during specific high-contact care activities.

Current infection prevention and control practice in many NFs is to implement Contact Precautions only when a resident is infected with an MDRO and is receiving treatment. The CDC notes “Focusing only on residents with active infection fails to address the continued risk of transmission from residents with MDRO colonization, which can persist for long periods of time (e.g., months) and result in the silent spread of MDROs.”

Enhanced Barrier Precautions doesn’t replace the CDC’s current guidance for the use of Contact Precautions for other pathogens such as C. difficile or norovirus in nursing facilities. Review the information about Enhanced Barrier Precautions.

Recommendations for Influenza Vaccination for the 2019-2020 Flu Season

The CDC has released their recommendations for influenza vaccination for the 2019-2020 flu season. Annual vaccination is recommended for anyone six months of age or older, particularly those at high risk for serious complications from the flu, including:

- Adults aged 65 or older
- People living in nursing facilities or other long-term care facilities
- People with chronic health issues, such as asthma, heart disease or diabetes

In addition, all health-care workers should receive the flu vaccine. This is an important measure that can help prevent the spread of influenza in the facility. By getting vaccinated, health-care workers help protect themselves, their residents, and their families.

People with an egg allergy can receive the flu vaccine. Vaccinate a person with a history of a severe egg allergy (any symptom other than hives after exposure to eggs) in a medical setting with the ability to recognize and manage severe allergic reactions.

The vaccine should be given before flu activity begins in the community. The CDC recommends vaccination by the end of October, however getting the vaccination later is still beneficial. See the CDC’s
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